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Arab-Israeli Talks

14th Round of Israeli-Palestinian Talks Concludes

Session Suspended; Palestinians See 'Arafat

NC1104115095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—A round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations was held this morning to discuss the legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian side was headed by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, and the Israeli side by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

The session was suspended 30 minutes after it started and the members of the Palestinian delegation left to see Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The talks between the two sides are expected to resume later today.

Sha'th Sees Talks in 'Deep Crisis'

NC1104143195 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 11 (AFP)—The Israeli-PLO talks on extending self-rule are in "deep crisis" and the Jewish state does not want them to progress, a key Palestinian figure in the peace process charged Tuesday [11 April].

The latest round of negotiations in Cairo was due to end later the same day after a two-day session.

The meeting went ahead despite two suicide bombings by Moslem militants in the Gaza Strip on Sunday that killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American woman and wounded more than 50 other people.

"The Israeli-Palestinian peace process is in a deep crisis because Israel has been very slow in implementing the autonomy accord in Gaza and Jericho," said Nabil Sha'th, the international cooperation "minister."

"It is still prevaricating over the (Israeli army) redeployment on the West Bank," he told the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram.

"The negotiations are in a state of paralysis and the talks on elections are futile. Israel is continuing them to avoid accusations of being anti-democratic."

Under the 1993 Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles the army was due to redeploy away from Palestinian towns on the West Bank ahead of elections to a new self-rule council. But the move has been delayed since last July out of Israeli fears for the security of some 130,000 Jewish settlers.

Israel "knows there will be no elections before an accord on the redeployment," said Sha'th, who has led several rounds of talks with Israel. "No progress has been made in all the other meetings between the two sides."

"Israel does not want to achieve any real progress but at the same time it does not want the talks to be completely blocked because that way it can still put pressure on the Palestinian Authority and ordinary Palestinians."

During the last round of negotiations in Cairo, March 28-29, both sides began drafting a joint outline for the structure of the self- rule council.

Israeli chief negotiator Yo'el Singer said Tuesday that Israel still hoped to meet a July 1 deadline to agree with the PLO on the next stage of Palestinian self-rule.

Singer: 'No Major Progress' Made

NC1104182795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 14th round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations of the Palestinian legislative power concluded in Cairo this evening. Yo'el Singer, director of the legal department at the Israeli Foreign Ministry and head of the Israeli delegation, said: During this round we discussed a number of issues and focused basically on the structure of the proposed Palestinian legislative council and exchanged views on other issues and discussed the current situation in Gaza and the West Bank. He added: We have agreed to hold another round of talks in Cairo two weeks from now to resume these negotiations. I believe we can say that this round of talks was good even though it was short. However, he added, no major progress was made during this round, he added, and said that the pending issues are still unresolved. He further said: We have made some progress on a number of issues and presented some documents to the Palestinian delegation and received some documents from them, noting that some of these documents need to be studied by both sides to reach a joint concept on them. He expressed his full confidence that an agreement will be reached on the set date of 1 July.

Further on Singer's Comments

NC1104200595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by correspondent Mu'tazz al-Damardash in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the talks on elections which ended here today has affirmed that his government's stand on the participation of all Palestinian factions in these elections, including the Hamas movement, will not change.

While the Palestinian delegation declined to make any statement on the progress of the talks, the Israeli delegation head said in an interview with MBC that this latest round made progress on amending voter lists. He expressed the hope that the greater part of the talks on forming a Palestinian council will be settled in the next round.

Singer acknowledged disagreement over nominating Palestinians residing in Jerusalem in the elections. But he affirmed the agreement on their right to vote, as well as the Palestinian council's powers to issue laws and legislations, although there are some details awaiting solution, as he put it.

[Begin recording] [al-Damardash] What is your reaction to Palestinian President 'Arafat's charges that the Israelis are procrastinating about these elections and playing for time on sticking to the election date?

[Singer] I think that neither Israel nor the Palestinians are delaying an agreement but we all are exerting every possible effort to reach agreement on the target date, which is 1 July. We have covered more than 50 percent of the agenda. [end recording]

The Israeli delegation head also asserted the continuation of intensive work in parallel with other negotiating groups to conclude an agreement on the set date.

Talks End, To Resume 26 Apr

NC1204053695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian team to the two-day Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, left Cairo tonight. The Palestinian official declined to comment before leaving for Gaza. But he said the negotiations will resume between the two sides on 26 April.

Sha'th, Beilin Hold Talks in Jerusalem

TA1104112495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that whoever shoots at Israelis murders not only them but also kills the Palestinian national interest and the peace process. Sha'th added that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has no intention of destroying its political opposition and merely seeks to prevent the terrorist squads from carrying out attacks. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Dr. Sha'th's meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Jerusalem today:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The PA is serious in its intention to combat all forms of violence and terrorism. The people who shoot at Israelis murder not only them but also kill the Palestinian national interest and the peace process. These harsh remarks were made today by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, a member of the PA, at a symposium in Jerusalem in which Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin also participated. This kind of situation cannot continue, Dr. Sha'th said, referring to the recent terrorist attacks. We will not be able to countenance a democracy with freedom of expression if this entails shooting and murder.

[Sha'th, in English] We consider, from a Palestinian point of view, attacks like this to be against the interest and the security and the commitment of the Palestinian people and against its own laws, against our own laws. We should not be seen as doing it just to please the Israelis. We should be doing it as a matter of our national interest.

[Segal translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Sha'th explained that he had no intention of destroying the Palestinian opposition but rather to quash the rejectionists' attempts and capabilities to undermine the political process. Sha'th mentioned the arrests made by the PA and noted that several people have already been put on trial. He asserted that the PA plans to continue such activity.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that 'Arafat and the PA were still not doing enough.

[Beilin] I am sure that it is not doing enough. I think it is taking some steps, but these are insufficient. Our job is to pressure the PA to do more.

[Segal] Beilin and Sha'th both agreed that the political process should not be stopped. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 11 April carries a related report on the Sha'th-Beilin encounter. In a recorded passage, Beilin responds to a question on whether Israel should negotiate with Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, by saying: "Absolutely not. Negotiations with Hamas are in no way on our agenda. The question is whether we can maintain a dialogue with it if it becomes a member of some Palestinian political body after having changed its position. If its platform calls for the destruction of Israel, there is nothing to talk about. If it changes its ways and gets involved in some joint political framework, I see no reason not to maintain a dialogue with it."]

Call For Permanent Arrangement Talks

TA1204071495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and Palestinian Authority [PA] official Nabil Sha'th are jointly calling on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to launch official negotiations on the permanent arrangement. The two men have been holding discussions on this matter for the past few months and now assert that they have reached an initial basis for agreement on at least several issues. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The team led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, which opened the way for a dialogue with the PLO two years ago and laid the foundations for the Declaration of Principles in Oslo, has been holding discussions with Palestinian representatives on the permanent arrangement for the last few months. The Israeli representatives are the two academics, Dr. Ron Pundaq, and Dr. Ya'ir Hirschfeld, who do not hold any official government position. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has held similar discussions with PA official Nabil Sha'th.

[Sha'th, in English] This should happen as soon as possible and on an official basis. We discuss matters in a conference like this and in other venues.

[Segal translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Sha'th said that although the Palestinians and Israel regularly exchanged views, he was calling for an immediate start of official negotiations on the permanent arrangement even during the implementation of the interim accord. Sha'th was speaking prior to a meeting with Yosi Beilin, who together with the Palestinian official issued a joint appeal to Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin. Dr. Ya'ir Hirschfeld said debates were constantly being held and noted that both parties were in the midst of intensive deliberations over the issue.

[Hirschfeld] The permanent arrangement must be extremely detailed, precise, and carefully thought out. Therefore, a great deal of thought is required. We have nevertheless reached agreement on numerous issues, while there are still disagreements and conflicts of interests on many other issues. Our aim is to examine how these latter can be bridged.

[Segal] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin stressed that the discussions did not constitute official negotiations and neither side had a mandate to reach any binding agreements. Beilin, however, confirmed that preliminary talks were being held.

[Beilin] We have held many talks at this level but there are no negotiations whatsoever on the permanent arrangement.

[Segal] Do you, however, discuss issues which pertain to the permanent arrangement?

[Beilin] When we meet and talk, such issues definitely crop up on the agenda. I can also tell you my personal conclusion: I believe that a permanent arrangement is attainable with regard to all the issues on the agenda. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Mar

NC0704090395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Chief Editor Views Nuclear Issue, Pakistani Example
2. Arrest of Protesters at Cairo Fair Denounced
3. Muslim Brotherhood Official Comments on Arab League

CHIEF EDITOR VIEWS NUCLEAR ISSUE, PAKISTANI EXAMPLE

In a 2,500-word article with the headline "Between the Egyptian Government's Failure and the Saga of the Pakistani Bomb" on page 2, chief editor Majdi Husayn discusses the Egyptian Government's progressive retraction of its initial "verbally hardline" position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He says that the government's concessions reached the point where the Egyptian ambassador to Israel said: "We are not asking Israel to sign the treaty now because we realize that this is a sensitive issue as a result of the security situation. However, there must be a timetable specifying when Israel will negotiate over the issue."

The writer notes that the demand for an "Israeli pledge" to sign the NPT has been replaced by a request for a negotiating date.

Husayn adds that in addition to abandoning its initial strong position, the government used it as a cover to press ahead with its cooperation with Israel over banking and tourism issues. He writes: "The meetings of the members of the quadripartite alliance—Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Gaza's self-rule authority—continued in Cairo, Taba, Washington, and Amman to discuss tourism projects and the establishment of a Middle East bank to finance Israel's needs. Vague agreements were signed with Al Gore."

He reviews Pakistan's long quest for a nuclear bomb, which involved "a solid resolve and intelligent execution until the aim was reached" and urges a similar Egyptian program that would involve secretive work, national unity, and resistance to external pressure.

He declares that if the current Egyptian rulers are unable to handle difficult tasks, there are others who can do so.

ARREST OF PROTESTERS AT CAIRO FAIR DENOUNCED

AL-SHA'B has continued reporting on the recent protests against Israel's participation in Cairo's International Fair and the authorities' reaction to these protests.

A 1,500-word report on pages 1 and 6 by Jamal Imbabi and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid recounts that dozens of citizens who shouted anti-Israeli slogans at the fair were arrested after being "severely beaten up with electrified truncheons." It refers to clashes between the security forces and 'Ayn Shams University students over the same issue.

The report adds that 45 people "representing all political parties, patriotic forces, and student bodies" were arrested. Five of the detainees were from the Labor Party, including Muhsin Hashim, member of the party's Executive Committee.

The report refers to denunciations made by the Labor Party's Student Secretariat and the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] against the arrests. An EHRO statement said that "many of the detainees told their interrogators at the Prosecutor's Office that they had been subjected to physical assaults by the security forces who arrested them and that these assaults included the release of tear gas grenades inside the police vehicles that transferred them to jail."

The EHRO called on "all international and Arab organizations to urge the Egyptian Government to lift all legal restrictions on freedom of opinion, expression, and peaceable gatherings that are guaranteed by international human rights charters."

In a news conference held by representatives of the Labor, Liberal, and Nasirite Arab Democratic Parties and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, opposition spokesmen urged "the prompt release of the young people who reject Zionist infiltration into Egypt." They called for "consultations among the various political parties to seek a halt to the security forces' excesses against the opposition political parties."

Major General Tal'at Musallam, member of the Labor Party's Political Bureau, described what befell the young men rejecting normalization as "a link in a continuous chain of events that began with the third presidential term and was illustrated by the detention of [Labor party deputy leader] Dr. Hilmi Murad at the Heliopolis Police Station; the detention of [Labor Party Secretary General] 'Adil Husayn; the arrest of some Muslim Brotherhood members; and the attendant torture, violation of the detainees' rights, trumped up charges against them, and killing of some people under the guise of so-called raids."

A related 2,000-word report by Muhammad Hilal on page 2 describes the strict security measures adopted at Cairo Fair's industrial section in Madinat al-Nasr.

Hilal says: "The fair's organizers surrounded the Zionist wing with barricades guarded by a very large number of Central Security troops with their weapons held at the ready. They placed a metal-detecting device at the entrance to search bags and allowed visitors to enter only one by one amid strict security measures. This shows that those who are in charge of our government know very well that the public hates those pigs and will never be reconciled to the alleged peace and 'official' friendship proclaimed by the accursed Camp David accord."

The writer notes that the Israeli products shown at the fair were mostly "unsophisticated products such as plastic jars, paints, colored pens, and stationery." He criticizes Egyptian businessmen who market the Israeli products.

Describing the arrest of some members of a "peaceful demonstration" protesting Israel's participation in the fair, Hilal says: "The arrest of Nasir Mahmud, a member of the Nasirite Party, was a ghastly scene. At first he succeeded in escaping but was chased by the Interior Ministry's forces to a place far from the Israeli wing. When he was caught, one of the security personnel hit him with an electrified truncheon and he lost consciousness. They dragged him over the ground like a slaughtered animal and when they got tired, they kicked him and left him lying on the ground. Then they got a soldier to carry him and place him in the police vehicle."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ARAB LEAGUE

Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide, discusses the Arab League's Arab and Islamic role, noting that although it "brought some positive benefits to the Arabs and Muslims, these benefits were less than what had been hoped for."

In a 1,600-word article on page 5 entitled "The Arab League Versus the Zionist Enemy," he recalls the former supremacy of Islamic civilization and its subsequent decline as a result of the Muslims' neglect of religious teachings and the schemes of enemies. He deplores the "Jews' conspiracy to overthrow the Ottoman Caliphate" and the British assistance to the Jews in "usurping the land of Palestine and expelling its inhabitants." He says that the Jews largely control Western media and are influential in economic and political circles. Accusing the Jews of having played a "major role in the rise of atheistic communism in Russia to destroy non-Jewish religions and control the world," he says they now stand behind "the Western countries to make them declare that there is a mutual enemy called Islam and the Muslims."

On the Arab League, he says: "Perhaps the establishment of an Arab League with the enemies' acceptance and backing was designed to prevent the Muslims from forming a Muslim league or establishing an Islamic union. Perhaps the enemies sought to entrench the concept of pan-Arabism as opposed to religious Islamism."

He blames the military governments that came to power in many Arab countries for jailing, torturing, and killing Islamists but says that despite these "ordeals," an Islamic resurgence has appeared in many Islamic countries.

On the way Islam is now viewed, Mashhur remarks: "When some individuals carried out some violent acts, the enemies picked up this thread and hurled the accusation of terrorism and extremism on all Muslims. They portrayed Islam as a terrorist religion when in fact it is a religion of peace, justice, mercy, and liberty."

Mashhur blames the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraq-Kuwait war, and Somalia's civil war on "Zionist-U.S. scheming" and says it caused "some countries to throw themselves into the embrace of the United States and others for protection."

Referring to the "so-called peace agreements" between Israel and Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan and "the intense pressures on Syria and Lebanon" to sign similar agreements, Mashhur says he is "shocked" by the Arab League's attitude to Israel's refusal to join the NPT and its decision to allow every Arab country to vote as it wishes when the treaty comes up for renewal.

He writes: "We are forced to say this: We would have liked the Arab League to be a sincere and ideal spokesman for the Arab nations. However, we have been shocked by the facts. Our shock became greater when the Arab countries participated in suspect conferences like Morocco's economic conference on a Middle Eastern market and the rumors that an attempt is being made to establish a Middle East League to replace the Arab League. We are also shocked by reports that some Arab countries are thinking of ending their boycott of the Zionist enemy."

Asking "Is there hope for correcting our course?" he urges the Arab countries to "change their attitude to Islam and the Muslims and halt the scheming and the war against the Islamic tide in our countries."

He says that the Arab countries must know that "the sound way of overcoming their current crisis and weakness is to awaken the spirit of Islam and build our Arab societies on the sound Islamic creed that is opposed both to excess and abandonment."

Declaring that material civilization is doomed unless it is bolstered by spirituality, he urges Arab governments to give more freedom to their citizens and win their trust by "establishing justice and equality, putting an end to injustice, and granting liberties."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 31 Mar

NC0704141395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 31 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Prisoners Tortured, Maltreated in Turah; Protests Continue
2. Paper Reports Reversal of Ruling on "The Immigrant"
3. Labor Party Leader Welcomes Sudanese-Egyptian Foreign Ministers' Meeting
4. U.S. Document Reportedly Says Islamists Can Win Elections
5. Four Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested
6. 'Adil Husayn Calls On Copts To Get Closer to Islamists
7. Muslim Brotherhood Lawyer Statement Justifies Not Running in Elections
8. Washington Seminar Discusses Political Islam; Pelletreau Cited

PRISONERS TORTURED, MALTREATED IN TURAH; PROTESTS CONTINUE

A 1,000-word report on pages 1 and 6 by Jamal Imbabi and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid centers on the "torture and maltreatment of the prisoners inside Turah Prison, while protests at the various universities continue against security violations of prisoners and against Israeli participation in the Cairo International Fair." Many prisoners, the report says, including Labor Party members, went on hunger strike for 72 hours. The report details some of the security measures taken against officials from various opposition parties and the various protests and marches at universities against Israel's participation in the fair.

PAPER REPORTS REVERSAL OF RULING ON "THE IMMIGRANT"

A 50-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that a court order was issued canceling the earlier ruling banning the film, "The Immigrant."

LABOR PARTY LEADER WELCOMES SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

On page 1, in a 200-word report, Rabi' Shahin says: "Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri welcomed the meeting between the foreign ministers of Sudan and Egypt in Cairo on the sidelines of the OAU extraordinary session." Shukri is cited as saying that he hopes the meeting will be the beginning of improved bilateral relations. The report says diplomatic sources from the Sudanese delegation stated that the objective of the first meeting between the two foreign ministers was "to review the positions of the two ministers on Arab and Islamic issues and bilateral relations." They did not discuss the conflict between Egypt and Sudan, the sources noted. Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa promised his Sudanese counterpart to set the date for his visit to Sudan by maintaining telephone contact with him.

U.S. DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY SAYS ISLAMISTS CAN WIN ELECTIONS

On page 1 there is an unattributed 100-word report on a document prepared by the U.S. National Security Department on the increasing influence of the Islamic current in Egypt. The document says supporters of the Islamic current have increased by 5-7 percent during the past few months. The document says the reason for this growth is that "many Egyptian citizens are not satisfied with the government's economic policy." It adds that the Islamic current is organized and gives aid to the poorer quarters of society. The report notes: "The Islamic current in Egypt can take part in any elections in the country and can achieve tangible victory, if these elections are fair and honest."

FOUR MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS ARRESTED

An unattributed 80-word report on page 1 notes that a security source stated Thursday [30 March] morning that four Muslim Brotherhood members were arrested. The source claimed that money and computer disks were found with the detainees.

'ADIL HUSAYN CALLS ON COPTS TO GET CLOSER TO ISLAMISTS

'Adil Husayn writes a 2,500-word article on page 5 in which he comments on a recently published book by Coptic Pope Shanudah entitled "The Orthodox Coptic Church and the Issue of Jerusalem: Commitment to the Cause and Adherence to the Principle." Husayn first summarizes the contents of the book and the point of view Pope Shanudah advocates. The pope sets out to prove what he calls the fallacy of the Jewish claim to the promised homeland by citing the Old Testament. He also disputes the Jewish claim to Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel and asserts that the Arabs have rights over it. He discusses the Coptic Church's rights over the Dayr Sultan Monastery in Jerusalem. He says he believes Israel is creating an issue over it to widen the differences between the Coptic and Ethiopian Churches. The pope also expresses the Coptic stance on the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, which, he notes, has not been followed by other steps, as was agreed upon. The pope says: "I will not enter Jerusalem except together with the al-Azhar shaykh, and with the blessing of all the Arabs and Muslims." He stresses that all Copts in Egypt have this nationalist stance and will not relinquish any Arab rights.

Husayn comments on the prominent role Copts have played in Egyptian nationalism and the battle for liberation. He gives the example of Makram 'Ubayd, a former Coptic prime minister of Egypt, who Husayn believes "acquired his leadership not by appointment but by jihad among the masses in the streets." He then reviews the problems over the past years between the Copts and the Muslims. "Regrettably, some crimes took place that threatened the lives and livelihood of the Copts; these crimes served the schemes of the enemies." Husayn advocates that Copts and Muslims in Egypt should "again converge over the grand national goals and joint struggle to realize these objectives." Husayn suggests that while Muslims should take the initiative to include Copts in every aspect of political and social life in Egypt, he urges Copts to take the initiative themselves if the Muslims fail to help them. Husayn then states that Egypt is a sectarian, not secular, country, that the people are Muslim, and the traditions in the country are Islamic. He cites Makram 'Ubayd describing himself thus: "Christianity is my religion and Islam is my homeland." Husayn says he believes that the unity of traditions, customs, and moral standards unites the Egyptians. He urges the Copts to rally round the national goals and strengthen their common points with the Muslims. He also calls on them to distance themselves from the secularists and not to quarrel with the Muslims, because that will increase their isolation in society. Husayn says: "Calling on the Copts to participate in political activities and the existing parties means that, in the first place, they should get closer to the Islamic movement in particular." If they do so, he adds, they will discover that some of their fears, not all of them, are baseless. He says the Labor Party welcomes those Copts who wish to join the party's line and program.

Concluding, Husayn states that while the Labor Party criticized the Copts in the past, it did so because it was mainly interested in urging the nationalist Copts to join the Labor Party so that they would become an indivisible part of the nation. He closes with the following statement: "O Coptic masses of this nation. Get out of your negative framework and proceed toward the scope of national action. For the thousandth time we tell you: The Labor Party welcomes you, so do not hesitate."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LAWYER STATEMENT JUSTIFIES NOT RUNNING IN ELECTIONS

Page 6 carries a 400-word unattributed report on a statement by Muntassir al-Zayyat, a lawyer who belongs to the Islamic movement, in which he says: "My personal stance on the issue of running in the People's Assembly elections is rejection." He contends that there are two major factors controlling his decision. The first, he says, is that the elections cannot be honest and the voters cannot be free. He says he believes that if the opposition did win a majority, the government would dissolve parliament, as happened in Algeria. The second factor is shari'ah. So far, he claims, no one has been able to answer the question: Is it people's right to suspend implementation of God's laws? Al-Zayyat says he goes along with his origins in his behavior, and that the Islamic Group and Jihad have so far absolutely rejected the election process. He notes: "It is the right of the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists, such as the Labor Party, to adopt the method they think best to elevate God's words; no one should stand in their way."

WASHINGTON SEMINAR DISCUSSES POLITICAL ISLAM; PELLETREAU CITED

On page 9 an unattributed 3,000-word "The Dialogue" feature appears. It discusses a seminar on "The Spread of Islam in the Middle East," which was held in Washington, organized by The Middle East Policy Council, which is headed by former Senator George McGovern. Participating in the seminar were Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and others. Senator McGovern introduces the seminar by saying that an attempt will be made to discover the nature of political Islam and the reasons it has emerged, as well as the differences between the moderate and extremist Islamic movements in the Middle East and the U.S. and allies' policies in the region toward these movements and organizations.

Robert Pelletreau makes his remarks first at the seminar. He notes that the Middle East is going through many complicated changes with the peace process. Political Islam, he suggests, emerged as part of the budding local equations, which concern U.S. policymakers. Pelletreau then lists ways in which the United States can preserve U.S. interests in the region. He discusses the term "Islamic fundamentalism," which, he maintains, is used inaccurately to label various phenomena in the Middle East. He says: "In foreign affairs, we usually use the expression political Islam when discussing groups and movements that fall within the framework of fundamentalism and that have a defined political program." Pelletreau is cited noting that these terms are not necessarily derogatory labels, since there are Muslims who have positive and responsible social activities. But "there are Muslims," he adds, "who operate outside the boundaries of the law and who use violence to realize their objectives. They are often labeled terrorists. Extremism is present in the Middle East and elsewhere and can be either secular or religious."

Pelletreau then explains what he calls the confusion in the minds of the Americans regarding Islam and Islamic fundamentalism. He sings the praises of Islamic culture and heritage, which, he adds, have contributed much to our civilizations. He notes that political Islam's groups have chosen various ways to address the needs and requirements of their societies. Some joined the election process, others adopted a rejectionist policy, while yet others resorted to violence. He expresses some understanding of why terrorism spreads. Poverty, deteriorating economic conditions, the absence of education, and other factors provide the fertile ground for terrorism, so these issues must be addressed to deal with terrorism, he states.

Another speaker at the seminar was Professor Daniel Pipes, who makes a distinction between Islam and extremism. He says: "As regards U.S. policy, the principle is one thing, and the reality another. At one time working with fundamentalists was the correct decision, when the Central Intelligence Agency cooperated with the Muslim fundamentalists in Afghanistan to expel the Soviet forces from their territories. This means allying with the 'Smaller Satan' against the 'Great Satan,' just as there was cooperation with the Iranian Government against Iraq during the Kuwait crisis." In conclusion, he warns that the United States must be very careful about how to put on pressure to realize democracy. He advocates realizing small goals, such as political participation and freedom to form organizations, particularly political parties, before trying to hold elections.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 4 Apr

NC0804173395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. 'Onslaught' on HRC Reported; Allegations Refuted
2. University Students' Arrest On Campus Protested
3. Authors Union Opposes Normalization, Urges Arab Reconciliation
4. Khartoum Conference Rejects Normalization
5. U.S. Efforts to 'Rationalize' Regime Examined

'ONSLAUGHT' ON HRC REPORTED; ALLEGATIONS REFUTED

A 1,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 6 alleges a "serious escalation" of activities by the security agencies against the Humanitarian Relief Committee, HRC, and the Doctors' Association. According to the report, Dr. Husam Husayn, a former HRC secretary general and assistant purser of the Doctors' Association, was arrested, his home was searched "several times" and money seized from it, and his sister-in-law was held in custody until he turned himself in.

HRC employees Husayn al-Sharqawi and Jum'ah Imam, arrested earlier on charges of training Egyptian youth abroad in military operations, were tortured and given electric shocks during their detention at the State Security Investigations headquarters.

The chief of the Doctors Association, Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid, pointed out at a press conference on 3 April that in all its activities and operations, the "HRC has not gone beyond relief work or broken any laws." He said that the committee "has nothing to do with political disputes; its role is purely humanitarian." Dr. al-Sayyid pointed out that the trade unions law "allows the committee to receive donations and gifts to use them for humanitarian and medical activities." He fears this "onslaught might shrink the committee's relief and humanitarian role."

In a related 2,000-word report on page 3, the same reporter writes: "In the third stage of the war the government is waging against the trade unions that have an Islamist majority, the security agencies have launched a fierce campaign against the HRC and the Doctors Association, arresting two of its employees and propagating rumors and false allegations that its former secretary general, Dr. Ashraf 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, was involved in military and terrorist activities and financial irregularities."

The report notes that this "third step" was preceded by two campaigns, one against the Engineers Association and the other against trade unionists "because of their Islamic affiliation."

Former HRC secretary general Dr. Husam Husayn is quoted as saying that the committee provided relief for afflicted people in several areas around the world "in cooperation with the governments and international organizations, primarily the United Nations." He adds that the committee's activities were "restricted to humanitarian relief" both inside and outside Egypt.

Expressing his belief that it is a "political rather than a legal issue", Husayn said that the campaign aims to "distort the image of all those who belong to the Islamic current before the elections expected this year."

HRC Executive Director Dr. Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Azim said that the charges the authorities are investigating are "totally false". "The goal of the fierce security campaign against the committee is to distort the image of the Islamic current just before the upcoming elections, strike at relief work inside and outside Egypt, misrepresent the committee's representatives, and force the Egyptian masses who sympathize with the cause of the Bosnians and other Muslims to stop providing assistance to afflicted people for fear of questioning by the government," 'Abd-al-'Azim claimed.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ARREST ON CAMPUS PROTESTED

A 200-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on AL-SHA'B's page 6, says that the State Security Investigation forces stormed the campus of Cairo University at dawn on Monday, 3 April, and arrested 10 students. The report adds that the armed troops surrounded the campus, searched students' rooms, smashed their belongings, and beat the students.

According to the report, students organized a fast and a sit in to protest the "fierce police campaign" and demanded to know the charges against their colleagues.

The Islamic Action Student Association of Cairo University has strongly denounced the security forces' conduct on the campus, voiced full solidarity with the arrested students, and demanded their quick release." the report says.

AUTHORS UNION OPPOSES NORMALIZATION, URGES ARAB RECONCILIATION

An unattributed 300-word report on page 9 says that the midterm elections of the Authors Union's Board of Directors were concluded on 31 March.

The Union's General Assembly issued a resolution "rejecting all forms of normalization with Israel and threatening with dismissal anyone who breaks that resolution." The Assembly decided to send a cable to the president voicing support for his refusal to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty until Israel does. The union appealed to President Mubarak to stick to that position to protect Egypt's security, the report says.

The union called on Arab governments to achieve full reconciliation with Iraq and to seek to lift the international embargo on the Iraqi and Libyan peoples.

KHARTOUM CONFERENCE REJECTS NORMALIZATION

A 500-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 1 says that the 3d session of the Islamic Arab Popular Congress concluded in Khartoum on 2 April. The Congress issued resolutions urging the unity of Islamic factions and calling for support for Libya and Iraq against the embargo imposed on them by the West. The Congress demanded that the embargo be lifted, condemned the Oslo agreement, rejected normalization with the "Zionists," called for fighting the "Middle Easternism scheme," and voiced support for the Muslims in Bosnia and Chechnya. It also supported the Muslim women in Europe against plots to annihilate them or force them to take off the veil.

The Congress deleted the word "Arab" from its title, since the word "Islamic" covers Arabs.

U.S. EFFORTS TO 'RATIONALIZE' REGIME EXAMINED

In a 4,000-word article on page 2, Majdi Ahmad Husayn examines "America's relations with the Islamic movement" and Mubarak's regime.

Husayn refers to an article he published in AL-SHA'B's 31 January edition in which he pointed out that "the gradual improvement in the official U.S. position on the global Islamic revival is selective and changes from case to case, from one day to the next, and from one country to another."

Noting a "regression" in that improvement in the past two months, Husayn explains that U.S. economic support for the "illegitimate government" in Algeria through the IMF represents "a clear and practical bias" toward the government that leaves nothing but "sweet words for the Islamic opposition, the legitimate rulers."

He also notes the "tortoise-like progress" in the U.S. position toward Muslims in Bosnia, asserting that the U.S. position "is incompatible with the possibilities and the pressures the United States could use to stop the massacres and famines the Bosnian Muslims are going through."

Illustrating the "degenerating U.S. position on the Islamic revival," Husayn cites U.S. support for NATO against Islamists and the joint U.S.-Israeli maneuvers in the Negev, which were designed "to train troops to fight armed Islamic groups."

Husayn says that the "Islamic power that undertakes the leadership of the Islamic revival is taking precautions against all potential challenges and is fully aware that the road will not be smooth for restoring the Islamic people's right to self-determination in spite of all the schemes and threats."

Turning to the U.S. relationship with the Egyptian regime, he says that "all the official U.S. criticism and press campaigns against the regime are not designed to topple it; on the contrary, they aim to rationalize it and sustain it, because America knows how much the regime means to it and its interests."

On the meaning of the semiofficial U.S. contacts with moderate and extremist Islamists, Husayn explains that contacts with the moderates "are part of the U.S. interest in following up and understanding first hand what is going on in the Egyptian arena." Noting that the contacts "seek to understand the Islamic phenomenon and curb Islamists' hostility to the United States," he describes the process as "a rational and sensible policy of dialogue" which the Egyptian government should have adopted.

To explain why the United States is said to be seeking contact with the hardline Islamists, Husayn cites U.S. expert William Quant as saying that "any successful campaign against the extremists should be conducted in a manner that guarantees that human rights will remain unharmed and that freedom in political life will be untouched." Quant believes that the United States "might hesitate" at the beginning but that "it will eventually support the established regimes, even if they adopt strict approaches to extremist Islamic groups, since stability takes priority."

Stating that "the U.S. differences with the Egyptian Government are in the context of rationalization of it rather than toppling it," Majdi Husayn explains that the United States has wagered most of its "immediate future" in the region on Egypt and on enhancing the Egyptian-Israeli axis as "the cornerstone for stability in the region." He concludes from this that the United States is "more careful about preserving the Egyptian regime than the regime itself." He likens America to "a mother who knows what is best for her son, a son who does not always abide by the rules."

Husayn then points out that the United States is "concerned at the concentration of authority in the hands of an autocratic ruler, a situation that does not give it the freedom to maneuver and use its influence." It is also concerned at "the level of human rights violations and believes that the existing democratic margin is good, but should be sustained and expanded slightly to guarantee the regime's stability," Husayn believes, pointing out that America might allow "a limited but controlled Islamic participation." He maintains that the U.S. alarm at the diminishing of the democratic margin is due to "its concern for the regime more than for the Islamists."

Majdi Husayn maintains that the U.S. concern at the extensive corruption is motivated by eagerness to rationalize the regime and guarantee its stability.

Husayn explains that when the United States finds the regime unresponsive on certain issues—like bias toward Israel and stifling Iraq, Libya, Iran, and Sudan—it tends to exert pressure by focusing on other "popular points" like freedom, human rights, and corruption.

He regrets that the Egyptian Government "limits its partial rebellion in connection with the Libyan issue and the nuclear treaty to grumbling, while it waves a white flag when it comes to breaking the unbreakable rules on cooperation with Sudan, Iraq, and Iran." Husayn explains that the government first objects to certain points and then approves of more serious ones that have a bearing on the national and pan-Arab security.

Husayn maintains that the United States is dissatisfied with the rate of privatization and "wants the public sector to disappear in the blink of an eye." He states that he is not against privatization, provided that it takes national priorities into account and follows "a clear-cut, independent, and national program."

To sum up U.S. differences with Egypt from the U.S. point of view, he says that "they seek to maximize the benefit of alliance with Egypt, but not at Israel's expense, as well as to sustain the Egyptian regime and gradually rationalize it, because its survival is definitely in their interest."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 4 APR

NC0704121795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Editorial on Spread of Islam in United States
2. Establishment of Islamic University in Baku Contemplated
3. Mufti of Jerusalem interviewed on Topical Issues

EDITORIAL ON SPREAD OF ISLAM IN UNITED STATES

Chief Editor Samir Rajab writes a 250-word editorial on page 1 in which he says that many Americans are converting to Islam. This places on al-Azhar a great responsibility to send "moderate" and "enlightened" scholars to spread Islam in the United States. The writer notes that the majority of converts are black. This has aroused the "suspicion" of whites in view of racial discrimination that still pervades U.S. society. Citing Prophet Muhammad as saying that there is no difference between an Arab and a non-Arab except by the degree of their piety, he concludes that if there are good preachers who can explain Islam's true principles based on justice and equality, several things will change because the "ground is completely fertile" now that the fabric of U.S. society is being torn asunder and the Americans are looking for a "savior."

ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN BAKU CONTEMPLATED

A 90-word report on page 1 says Grand Shaykh of al-Azhar Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq met on 3 April with an Azeri delegation led by Azeri Ambassador in Cairo Azravil Hajioglu. The meeting dealt with the possibility of establishing of an Islamic University in Baku. The university will be a center of "Islamic cultural radiation" for the Caucasus region and the surrounding Islamic republics.

MUFTI OF JERUSALEM INTERVIEWED ON TOPICAL ISSUES

On page 20, the newspaper carries a 1,500-word interview with Mufti of Jerusalem Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri by

Tariq 'Abdallah. In the interview, Shaykh Sabri affirms that Jerusalem is important to Arabs and Muslims. He says that Israel must withdraw from Jerusalem and give it back to the Palestinian people. If Israel maintains its intransigence, the situation will become tense. He adds that Jerusalem is the "key" to war and peace in the region. Commenting on the issue of terrorism, Shaykh Sabri says: "In fact, terrorism comes from the aggressor. Israel is an aggressor. America is also an aggressor because it supports Israel. America considers itself to be a peace sponsor but we do not see it putting pressure on Israel, as it is putting pressure on the Arabs, to implement the UN resolutions." He adds: "Regrettably, the weak are portrayed as terrorists and the strong as civilized." He says that Islam is a religion of "justice and tolerance" and is not a religion that encourages terrorism and extremism. On the possibility of a dialogue among the three religions—Islam, Christianity, and Judaism—Shaykh Sabri says he is not enthusiastic about such a dialogue because the Jews will seek to achieve "political gains" from it. He adds that he is not against the "Jewish religion" but against the "Zionist entity" created in the land of Palestine. He says: "We do not want to be exploited in any way. Therefore, I do not approve of this dialogue and do not encourage it under the present political conditions." Commenting on the situation in Bosnia and Chechnya, Shaykh Sabri says "it is a big conspiracy to break the bones of Islam in Europe. All the major powers—including America, Western Europe, and Russia—are supporting the Serbs against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina." He explains that Bosnia, Chechnya, and Palestine will not become "another Andalusia," because the Muslims will inevitably triumph, "God willing." What is happening is a test for the Muslims, who must be patient and must struggle and not be negligent. The Muslims must adhere to the Koran and victory will be theirs.

Scholar on Political Islam, Kuwaiti Democracy

95LH0088A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
27 Jan 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Iraqi opposition figure, Ahmad al-Katib, by Ala Abu-al-Shaykh, in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad al-Katib, an Islamic intellectual and an Iraqi opposition figure, has asserted that the Islamic nation is experiencing division, backwardness, and weakness as a result of constant disunity, splits, and conflicts that have caused it to be absent from the new world order and incapable of keeping pace with it.

In an exclusive interview with AL-WATAN, al-Katib pointed out that the disunity experienced currently by the Islamic nation has deprived this nation of the ability to express its word and its will in international lobbies. Thus, it has lost the ability to express its word in the UN Security Council and in all other international lobbies in order to voice its causes, to help its brothers, or to even defend itself. He noted that the solution lies in rallying the Islamic nation behind one word and in uniting all Islamic peoples so the Islamic nation will have an influential presence with which it can face modern international challenges and confront its enemies.

As to the reasons and objectives of his visit to Kuwait, al-Katib said, I have come to Kuwait at the invitation of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs to participate in the fourth session of the symposium entitled, "New Developments in Modern Islamic Thought," which is sponsored by the ministry. Ahmad al-Katib, the Islamic intellectual and Iraqi opposition figure, added that he participated in the symposium with a paper in which he commented on the impact of sectarianism on disunity among Muslims.

Al-Katib noted that his comment focused on the fact that past disagreement between the Sunni and Shia revolved fundamentally around succession, government, the constitutional theory of government, and whether this form of government is stipulated by God or whether it is the same thing as the shura and the Muslims' election of their imam.

He added that disagreement over these theories ended with the end of the Abbasid caliphate and the departure of the Prophet's family [from the succession arena] in past centuries and with the tendency of the Shiite imamate to adopt the shura principle [consultation] as a constitution for electing the modern imam and ruler.

Al-Katib also noted that disagreement raged over interpretation, considering that interpretation was not permitted by the Shia until the fifth century of the Hegira, when the Shia opened the door for it. Thus, the Sunni and the Shia agreed on the two most important issues disputed previously, namely shura and interpretation.

In his comment, al-Katib asserted that only subsidiary and superficial disagreements emanating from past battles have persisted and that these have become insignificant now.

Ahmad al-Katib, the Islamic intellectual and Iraqi opposition figure, asserted that there are no fundamental disagreements between the Shia and the Sunni now; that the two sides have developed agreement on the shura and on interpretation; and that, moreover, they are 90

or more in agreement on political philosophy and jurisprudence. He also noted that current disagreements are minor, pointing out that they emanate from imaginary and unreal psychological and emotional sentiments.

Al-Katib also pointed out that jurisprudential disagreements exist within the Shia, the Sunni, and all the various sects. He added that there are issues among the Sunna that the Shiah take up and issues among the Shiah that the Sunna take up and that the two sides engage in dialogue on these issues and end their disagreement over them quickly.

Regarding his impressions of the symposium and of the cultural and democratic climate in which it is held, Ahmad al-Katib asserted that the symposium, organized by the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs, was magnificently successful and characterized by a high level of intellectual presence, especially by intellectuals who are distinguished in their high level of intellect and culture.

Al-Katib also asserted that a way must be found to convey what occurs within these symposiums to the public, because it is impermissible to confine ideas to intellectual lobbies or to a very small class of intellectuals. He said that the most important thing that attracted his attention was the papers submitted to the symposium, especially the paper on conventional thought.

Success of Democracy

Al-Katib further added that he experienced an open intellectual climate in which a high level of dialogue, understanding, and love exists, stressing that this climate is attributable to the successful democracy experienced and enjoyed by the Kuwaiti people.

Al-Katib expressed hope that this democratic experiment in which Kuwait lives will spread to the other Islamic peoples.

Free Media

The Iraqi opposition figure also lauded the Kuwaiti media and press, noting that they are highly responsible and that they constantly try to convey the dialogue and activities of any symposium or seminar democratically.

Al-Katib also observed that what impressed him most during his visit to Kuwait and what gave him a definite impression of the success of democracy in Kuwait is that when a radical brother criticized Dr. 'Ali al-Zumay', the minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs, in a comment he made at the symposium, the brother minister calmly smiled and welcomed the criticism and the individual making it. This was a phenomenon I had never seen in my life.

Ahmad al-Katib further observed that the position taken by brother 'Ali al-Zumay', the minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs, embodied the true Islamic ethics that are founded on tolerance and humility. He said that this position represented a strange phenomenon to him under the current circumstances, adding that the position held by al-Zumay' reminded him of ancient Islamic history and culture and of the humility of ancient rulers and their welcome of criticism. He noted that if the incident with 'Ali Fahd al-Zumay', the Kuwaiti minister of religious endowments, had occurred in Iraq, the critic would not have been able to leave the hall safely.

Sentenced to Death

In response to a question by AL-WATAN on his current preoccupation, where he lives, and how he left Iraq, Ahmad al-Katib said that he is more devoted currently to intellectual work than to political work, noting that he abandoned political work since he left Iraq in 1973. At the time, he fled the tyranny of the ruling regime in Iraq and the persecution of the Iraqi intelligence who pursued him because he was a member of the Islamic Action Organization, which opposed the regime ruling Iraq. Al-Katib pointed out that a large number of his colleagues were arrested in 1972 and that after interrogating them, the regime started pursuing others. He said he was able to flee Iraq in 1973 and that he came to Kuwait where he stayed for a while and then left for London, where he lives currently.

Al-Katib pointed out that in 1974, the Iraqi regime sentenced him to death without trial, adding that all his family members live in various places in exile.

Radicalism and Violence

Ahmad al-Katib asserted that the Islamic arena of the various Islamic countries is experiencing noticeable progress. But at the same time, it suffers from some negatives, such as radicalism and the tyrannical dictatorial thinking among some sectors and some individuals.

He said that Muslim ulama and intellectuals must devote attention to guiding these movements and ideas in the direction of the shura, tolerance, dialogue, and openness so the experiment will be a pioneer, fruitful, beneficial, and productive experiment, so the Islamic arena will not suffer a setback, and so the Islamic citizen will not be frustrated, with grave consequences emanating from such frustration.

Al-Katib said that Islamic political thought generally has been distorted throughout the centuries. He noted that numerous theories exist in the various Islamic circles currently, with some inclined toward military rule, some toward revolutionary democratic rule, and some toward elections.

Islamic Culture

Al-Katib added that what is important is to work for sound Islamic thought and to find out what is a reasonable political system that can manage the country soundly and strongly.

He said that to reach the phase of good and reasonable Islamic thought, we must remove the dust that has accumulated on top of the Islamic culture, and we must purge and examine the legacy because Muslims believe in numerous historical anecdotes and stories that may not be real or true. Al-Katib pointed out that to ascertain the truthfulness of these stories and to verify their attribution to the venerable Prophet, may Gods peace and prayers be upon him, by true Islamic sources, we must engage in further interpretation so we can familiarize ourselves with Islamic thought. He noted that this dictates that great efforts be made in the area of interpretation. He emphasized that this is what the symposium has sought to accomplish so it will move Islamic thought toward interpretation and toward the contemplation of a sound Islamic system.

Free Expression

In the conversation, Ahmad al-Katib, the Iraqi writer, intellectual, and opposition figure, noted an important point, stressing the necessity of maintaining unity of the Islamic masses so sectarian differences will not be exploited to strike some people, to attack and provoke others, to call them infidels, to eliminate them from the political arena, and to take their political rights and freedom.

He said that all Muslims and all Islamic sects must be given the right to free expression, thought, and speech so that ideas can meet. If there are observations on any sect, then they must be tackled within a scientific framework and with calm discussion and constructive dialogue, and not with the purpose of political assault, provocation, and expulsion. He asserted that use of the latter approach can only intensify problems and disagreements and can produce no results.

Sectarian Reality

Al-Katib acknowledged that a sectarian reality exists in numerous Islamic countries, but that we must not believe in and recognize this reality because it is wrong to recognize it. Efforts must be made to overcome this reality and to avoid entrenching it. It is also essential to steer away from ancient disagreements.

Regarding Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its consequences, al-Katib said that the crime perpetrated by the tyrant Saddam Husayn, with his invasion and occupation of Kuwait, added another tragedy to the Islamic nation's tragedies. It added another crime to numerous and ceaseless crimes committed by Saddam who has become accustomed to aggression and war, to attacking his neighbors, to killing and torturing his citizens, and to violating peoples honor, with total disregard for the Islamic principles and values that urge observing a neighbor/s rights.

Al-Katib asserted that no Iraqi citizen or member of the Iraqi regime itself likes Saddam or is pleased with the tyrant's actions or with his regime. But fear of the rule of fire, iron, death, and torture is what keeps people silent.

He pointed out that Saddam Husayn kills whoever opposes him or anybody whose loyalty he doubts and that he is not reluctant to commit any brutality against innocent Iraqi citizens.

Al-Katib also noted that hatred for Saddam has even spread to his family members who cannot wait to get rid of him and who are making preparations toward this end.

Ahmad al-Katib urged the Islamic peoples to unite and cooperate in order to rescue the Iraqi people from the oppression of the regime ruling Iraq, stressing that the Iraqi people experience various kinds of torture at the regime's hands.

As to whether there is coordination among the Iraqi opposition abroad, al-Katib asserted that there is coordination between the various Islamic and nationalist factions of the expatriate Iraqi opposition. But there are obstacles impeding the progress of their activity because some Western countries support Saddam and obstruct serious action to topple the tyrannical Iraqi regime.

Concluding the interview, al-Katib expressed his sympathy for the cause of the Kuwaiti prisoners held hostage in Iraq's prisons. He said, I hope God will relieve their agony and that they will be released from captivity of the tyrant's regime.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Leader: No Civil War Expected in Gaza Strip

TA1104151695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sa'id Abu-Mashami, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, says that relations between his organization and the Palestinian Authority are very tense currently in the wake of the detention of about 200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists. At the same time, he added that Hamas does not believe that a civil war will break out in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas Says Authority 'Going Too Far' in Crackdown

NC1104151995 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 11 (AFP)—Hamas on Tuesday [11 April] accused Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority of going too far in its crackdown and warned against disarming its militants after two suicide bombings left eight dead.

"It is up to the authority to determine the nature of our relations and at the moment it is going too far," a Hamas leader, Sayyid Abu-Musammah, told AFP.

The relationship was already "very strained," he warned.

About 200 militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad have been rounded up in a wave of pre-dawn raids by Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip.

The two groups claimed Sunday's double car bombings outside two Jewish settlements on the Strip which killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American woman and wounded more than 50 others.

"Relations between Hamas and the authority are very strained at the moment over these incidents," Abu-Musamah said, but ruled out the likelihood of a "civil war."

In Amman, a Hamas statement warned the authority against carrying out its pledge to disarm all militants in the Gaza Strip.

The authority was "playing with fire," it said.

Hamas also denounced the creation of a special military court saying its rulings were "null and void." Two Islamic Jihad militants have been sentenced to long jail terms by the court in the past two days.

Gaza Police Commander, Hamas Leader on Gaza Arrests

TA1204060595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police will continue arresting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip today. The police called on everyone in possession of arms in the Gaza Strip to turn their weapons over to the police by 11 May. Hamas declared that it does not seek civil war in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The Palestinian Authority [PA], Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and Israel all agree that there has been a substantive change in the way PLO Chairman 'Arafat is handling the problem of terrorism from the Gaza Strip. Over 200 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested, amid occasional shooting and violence, and about 20 of them are suspected of being active the military wings of both groups. Nevertheless, 'Arafat has still not put any Hamas activists on trial in the special military tribunals. So far, only activists from the Islamic Jihad, which is a relatively small opposition group, have been prosecuted. A PA source said this was a signal to Hamas that some of its people would also be prosecuted if it continued its violent activities. A Palestinian police source said that the Palestinian security services have began interrogating the detainees. The results of these interrogations will lead to additional arrests within several days. General Ghazi al-Jabali, the commander of the Gaza police force, said that all people in possession of arms in the Gaza Strip had been given until 11 May to turn in their weapons.

Al-Jabali said that the police would confiscate the weapons of anyone who failed to get a license and would not tolerate unregistered weapons.

Sayyid Abu-Musamih, one of the Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, said that only Hamas' military wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, was authorized to decide on whether or not it would turn in its weapons. I asked Abu-Musamih about the possibility of civil war breaking out in the territories. He replied there may be individual reactions to the arrests; however, Hamas was not even considering the possibility of civil war.

General Ghazi al-Jabali claimed that important documents had been seized indicating that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad were receiving their instructions from foreign elements. However, Sayyid Abu- Musamih retorted that the Islamic movement in the Gaza Strip was independent and made its own decisions with regard to its actions. There is a high level of tension in the Gaza Strip. There is increased cooperation between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and the terrorists are no longer afraid to open fire on the Palestinian policemen. 'Arafat is cranking up the pressure by carrying out more and more arrests. The PLO chairman is trying to get public opinion on his side, asserting that the Palestinian opposition is acting against the Palestinian people's national interests. 'Arafat has nevertheless been careful not to overly exacerbate the situation lest things spin out of control. He has so far proved successful in this respect. [end recording]

Hamas Leader, Journalist Arrested in Gaza Strip

TA1204101295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The wave of arrests is continuing in the Gaza Strip. Last night Dr. 'Umar (Farawanah), one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who was deported to south Lebanon, and journalist 'Imad al-Franji were among those arrested.

Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that a fax machine, video cassettes, and various documents were confiscated at al-Franji's house. The house of journalist Tahir Shuraytah was also searched. One of Shuraytah's brothers was beaten up and had to be hospitalized.

PFLP, Students Call For Release of Detainees

TA1104123995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 200 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members have already been arrested in the Gaza Strip. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the Gaza Strip has called on the Palestinian Authority to immediately release all the detainees and engage in a national dialogue with the opposition.

The student association at Gaza's Islamic University have demanded the immediate release of the university's lecturers and students.

Hamas' al-Zahhar Rejects PA Accusations

*TA1104172995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 Apr 95 pp 1, 19*

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, has called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] and supporters of peace talks with the Israelis to resist Israeli practices, which, he said, seek to obstruct implementation of the agreements, rather than push the Palestinian street into a civil war. In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Dr. al-Zahhar accused Israel of suspending its agreements with the PLO in order to force it to suppress the Palestinian opposition in the self-rule areas.

Al-Zahhar added: "The PA should know that Israel has sought to back down from its agreements since the first moment that it signed them. It has delayed the issues of elections and the safe passage and has exerted pressure on the PA without any reason."

Al-Zahhar said: "Israel assassinated the martyr Hani 'Abid in one of the academic institutions in Khan Yunus. Moreover, all indications confirm that it was Israel that blew up the building in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, causing the martyrdom of a number of Palestinians, including a Hamas military official. Israel knows that the Palestinian street cannot accept having collaborators implement Israeli policies and then having Israel exploit those policies to pressure the PA to strike at the opposition."

Al-Zahhar stressed that "resisting Israel's policies and exerting pressure on it to implement its commitments is the solution for those who have participated from the outset in the negotiating process rather than embarking on a struggle in the Palestinian arena."

Al-Zahhar rejected the accusations leveled by the PA against Hamas and Islamic Jihad in which the PA said that these two movements were seeking to obstruct the PA's work. He said: "It is clear that Hamas began operating several years before the talks were launched."

New Movement Splits From Hamas, Hails Authority

JN1104141295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Right Movement for Championing the Palestinian People's Sons [harakat al-haqq li nusrat abna' al-sha'b al-filastini] has condemned the previous actions carried out by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement. These actions aim to deprive the masses of their means of livelihood and prevent them from work, it added.

In a statement distributed to the media today, the Right Movement said the Hamas Movement is now playing a new tune represented by assailing the National Authority [NA] as if they [reference to the Hamas Movement] wanted to foment the 1992 sedition once again but on a larger scale this time. The Right Movement hailed the NA under President Yasir 'Arafat.

The statement added: We used to be part of Hamas. However, we now frankly and loudly say: Enough of lies and falsehoods. We are fed up. Instead of assessing our old mistakes, we have justified our sins through the newspapers. In fact, those who disseminate statements and announcements through newspapers are actually misled and suspect groups which are tampering with the destiny of our Palestinian people.

The statement issued by the Right Movement for Championing the Palestinian People, which has split from the Hamas Movement, said it is highlighting these facts before the sons of our people, so they can assume their responsibilities.

'Text' of Splinter Group Statement

JN1104195995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Apr 95

["Text" of statement issued by the Right Movement for Championing the Palestinian People's Sons on 8 April; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Who receiveth guidance, receiveth it for his own benefit: who goeth astray doth so to his own loss: No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another: nor would we visit with our wrath until we had sent an apostle (to give warning). [Koranic verse]

O masses of our great people; O militant youths of Palestine who have forged heroic epics from your suffering, who have astonished your enemies with the solidity and strength of your faith, and who are continuing the path, the path of loftiness for your state through your pain and suffering to achieve new Palestinian realities represented by leader and symbol brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

While your [Palestinian] Authority is engaged in decisionmaking amid your suffering and blood so you can see Palestine's epic, some elements frequently emerge and claim that they represent Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in order to mislead you through the suspect statement published in the newspaper AL-QUDS. These elements relied on defaming the Authority in order to cover their sins.

Instead of admitting their crimes in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, they are exploiting their failure against the Authority, thus ignoring the people who came to see the hideous incident which befell innocent residents. The blood of the martyrs which was on the ceiling of the apartment where the explosion occurred, the hole in the ceiling of the shops underneath, and the debris scattered on the west side of the house irrevocably show that the explosion took place as a result of a defect in the manufacture of explosives inside the house.

O masses of our people, it is inconceivable for this group to mislead this community in order to foment sedition which we do not need in the first place. This group wants to beat the drums of sedition anew in order to tamper with the destiny of these people and throw them into an unknown future.

This self-appointed misled group is merely a second army for the enemy, and is hidden among our ranks. Had it not been so, it would not have issued statements against a police brigadier general and the Authority or assailed the first one to consider struggle [reference to 'Arafat].

Based on what is said, we, the Movement of Right in the Gaza Strip who had been part of this movement, say loud and clear: Enough of lies and falsehood. We are fed up. Instead of assessing our old and new mistakes, we are looking for lies to justify our sins through newspapers. In fact, those who disseminate statements and announcements through newspapers are actually a misled, ignorant, and suspicious group which is playing with fire and the destiny of our people. These despicable elements go further whenever they become bankrupt in carrying out their impromptu crimes and dangerous violations of all patriotic concepts. As soon as a dangerous step dies out, they make a new one. In the end, the fact becomes clear and the people pay the price of their actions with the food of their children through depriving the masses of their livelihood and preventing them from work.

O our masses, this has been revealed by you and you knew its meanings. Today, they are attacking the authority as if it is the authority of the enemies, and as if they want to revive the discord of 1992 anew, but in a larger and more dangerous and wider form with the aim of creating chaos among the masses and renewing strife.

We, in the Right Movement for Championing the Palestinian People's Sons, work with all we can to contain these tricks and nip them in the bud in order to preserve the achievements of our people that have been realized by the blood of martyrs, sufferings of the injured, and sacrifices of prisoners and detainees.

Based on this, we emphasize in our first statement the danger of what these Hamas elements commit—these elements who sit in their houses and trade with the blood of martyrs and the homeland.

Through this statement, we expose them to the sons of our people to shoulder the responsibility for the tricks and methods aimed to create strife to cover their sins.

Glory to the sons of this people who returned to the place they deserve; all glory to our martyrs; and disgrace to the cowards and traitors.

Here is a plain statement to men, a guidance, and instruction to those who fear Allah. [Koranic verse]

New Group Splits From PFLP, Supports Peace

JN1104144495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Democratic Grouping [PNDG] [al-tajammu' al-watani al-dimuqrati al-filastini] has said it has chosen new political and organizational methods of operation which differ from the methods, work, and ideas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash.

A statement issued today by the PNDG and distributed throughout the Palestinian territories added that the Oslo agreement and the subsequent political agreements between the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Israeli Government are considered the beginning of a new historic phase. These agreements were the fruit of world, Arab, and Palestinian political interactions which require pooling of various efforts and capabilities to improve conditions in a way that conforms to the Palestinian people's supreme interest.

The statement continued: Today, we announce the birth of a new democratic political movement which will work within the Palestinian people's institutions to promote the peace process.

Jihad Leader Justifies Attacks, Warns 'Arafat

JN1104201395 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Statement by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the heroic operation which was carried out by one of the heroes of the Islamic Jihad near the Kfar Darom settlement, in which eight occupation soldiers were killed and more than 50 Zionists were wounded, the Gaza Strip has been witnessing important and serious developments. It is on the brink of civil war as a result of the idiotic policy being carried out by the president of the self-rule authority in response to the U.S. and Zionist orders of repressing our people and striking at their mujahidin vanguards. 'Arafat knows that the Zionist occupation army and security forces have been trying to do this for many years, but to no avail. This is because our jihad did not begin when he arrived in Gaza. Neither is it linked to the presence or absence of his authority. The occupation is the cause and the target. As long as the occupation continues, our jihad will continue. Our condition to stop our military operations in the Gaza Strip lies in the immediate dismantling of settlements and the departure of the occupation soldiers. We do not know the meaning of the presence of 3,000 settlers who use half of the Strip's water and occupy approximately half of its land. In return, there are a million Palestinians who cannot find their daily bread and who suffer daily humiliation at the military checkpoints and those belonging to the self-rule authority.

In his press statement, Dr. al-Shaqaqi added: Our jihad action has exposed the enemy's weakness, confusion, and hysteria. It has become clear that the enemy can be defeated, for if a small faithful group was able to instill all this horror and panic in the enemy through confronting it in Palestine and southern Lebanon, what will happen when the nation confronts it with all its potential?

The authority's reaction in the wake of each martyrdom operation, and the other political developments, prove to us everyday that the Oslo agreement is based on three axes: [First], stopping the intifadah and relieving the

Zionist enemy from the burdens and hell of Gaza without leaving it in a way that enables it to continue its strategic control on it. Second, striking at the mujahidin and the Islamic movement at the hands of the self-rule authority, which is deluded by the enemies that it can reach the West Bank if it succeeds in striking at the mujahidin.

Third, penetrating the region and imposing hegemony and normalization on it. In our Jihad, we do not seek miserable power that is immersed in the blood of martyrs and at the expense of the nation and its interests. This authority in Gaza is devoid of any legitimacy. It daily proves it lacks any national content. In theory, it has abandoned four-fifths of Palestine and in practice it has given up entire Palestine, and accepted to be the servant of the Zionist settlement scheme and a security guard that protects it.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi went on to say: Who could have have imagined that the revolutionaries of yesterday would prosecute the strugglers of today on charges of confronting the occupation. That is what they did yesterday in the mock trial pf struggler Samir al-Jidi, which lacked any credibility. The self-rule authority sentenced him to 15 years although he used to teach in the mosque and has never carried out any security or military action. Today, they sentence Shaykh 'Umar Shalah to life imprisonment only on the charge of inciting against the occupation. How shameful this is.

We warn the desperate authority against the consequences of pursuing such practices. We warn it against continuing to insist on detaining mujahid Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami and his brothers. These practices confirm the authority's impotence, failure, decline, and its total subservience to the occupation.

Let this authority realize that the mujahidin who succeeded in striking at the enemy in difficult and impossible places are capable of replying at the appropriate time and against the appropriate target. Their martyrdom-seeking actions will escalate in the face of all pressures.

First and foremost, our jihad is a religious and national duty. It is a realistic option we have adopted in confronting the unequal balance of power. If we are unable to effect a balance of power now, we can achieve a balance of horror in a battle where our souls will excel and triumph.

In conclusion, let this desperate authority beware the wrath of the masses which will not patiently accept these unjust practices and sentences. Let Yasir 'Arafat return to Tunis so that the Strip might return as an arena for Jihad against the occupation and not an arena for civil war as Rabin wants, and as 'Arafat and his repressive agencies implement.

Glory to the martyrs, and freedom to the detainees and prisoners.

[Signed] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

PA Official Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Remarks

TA1204095495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior official in the Palestinian Authority [PA] has sharply criticized statements made by Martin Indyk, the newly appointed U.S. ambassador in Israel, regarding the PA's handling of terrorism and financial aid to the autonomy. The senior PA official asserted that the representative of a superpower like the United States should use diplomatic language and claimed that Indyk's remarks were one-sided. The PA official said that the new U.S. ambassador had started off on the wrong foot.

Sha'th Warns Against Collective Punishment by Israel

TA1104155995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of planning, says the self-rule government is pursuing security measures against terrorists as well as trying to build public support for the peace process. He told reporter Aviv Bushinsky that for its part, Israel must not level collective punishment on the Palestinians.

[Begin Sha'th recording] Besides the security measures you need a general political commitment by the population. Once the political commitment is there, even the security measures can be acceptable to the people and can be done with a consensus behind them supporting them. And I think we are doing the two things at the same time. What is needed besides that is Israeli cooperation not to enforce the kind of collective punishments that will create negative economic and political conditions that makes it difficult for us to pursue that process. [end recording]

Sha'th: Reported Clashes With Hamas 'Exaggerated'

JN1104113595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1023 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th [official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, PA] has denied reports circulated today that there have been clashes between the Palestinian police and Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in the Gaza Strip.

He said: [Begin Sha'th recording] I believe that the incident was exaggerated. During an attempt to arrest one of the persons—you know there are always fears that there are traitors and collaborators—a person fired bullets, thinking that there was an attempt on his life. When he discovered that the police were carrying out the arrest, he surrendered immediately and was arrested. The PA is responsible for protecting those it arrests until they stand trial and are sentenced. [end recording]

Abu-Middayn: Israel Remains People's 'Principal Enemy'

TA1104190095 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Apr 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by 'Imad al-Darimli]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office—Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian National Authority, has stressed that we will not cry for the peace process if it collapses. He said that if the donor states and the countries of the world do not honor their obligations, the peace process will be in peril. He added that we will not shed tears for peace because we will not be the only ones paying the price. In a speech before al-Azhar University students in Gaza yesterday, Abu-Middayn said that the Palestinian people's principal enemy, now and forever, is Israel and that this fact must not be forgotten.

Abu-Middayn said that there is no peace agreement between us and Israel. What have been signed are preliminaries in the peace process, which we do not call peace. We are giving peace a chance, but I believe that this peace is threatened by storms.

Abu-Middayn emphasized that if Israel fails to adhere to the date fixed between the Authority and Israel, which is July, and if agreement is not reached on the separation boundaries, the safe passages, redeployment, and elections, the peace process cannot go on. Abu-Middayn charged that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not seeking peace. He said that trusting this man is tantamount to trusting a sieve. He added that Rabin is a Likud man who speaks in the name of the Labor Party, and noted that it was the Labor Party that established the settlements. Abu-Middayn said that the challenge now is stopping settlement activity, holding elections, and liberating the prisoners. He added that settlement activity is a very serious matter. He stressed that there is a report calling for building 5,600 housing units in the West Bank. He said that this is tantamount to a declaration of war.

Abu-Middayn said that the Gaza Strip is now surrounded both from the south and north and that this blockade will destroy the peace process. He pointed out that in this region the Palestinian people alone are the ones who decide whether there will be peace or not.

Abu-Middayn said that it is impossible to separate the economic challenge from the security challenge. He noted that there are economic agreements amounting to $700 million of which we have only received the salaries paid to policemen and civil servants.

Abu-Middayn added that Israel is leading the separation process, which is the most serious thing that we are facing. He said that Israel has begun to unilaterally draw up the outlines of the future. At the same time it advocates settlement activity and wants to pull out from densely populated areas while talking about separation.

Abu-Middayn disclosed that Israel had proposed to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to withdraw from all the settlements in the Gaza Strip and allow the PA to establish a Palestinian state there provided it agrees to postpone the talks over the West Bank. He said that this proposal was rejected by the PA.

Abu-Middayn called on the brothers in the opposition to give these preliminaries in the peace process a chance. He said that we will be in the same boat whether they fail or succeed. He added: Either we and you achieve a just and honorable solution or the Palestinian people will pay a heavy price.

Says Israel Responsible for Suicide Acts

TA1104160795 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 10 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to AL-AQSA, Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn held the Israeli Government responsible [for the two suicide operations on 9 April]. He said: "When the Israeli minister of construction and housing announces that Rabin's government intends to build more than 5,000 houses in the Arab territories—in Jerusalem and the West Bank—he sets off an explosion more dangerous than the one that took place in Kfar Darom." Abu-Middayn asked: "What sort of emotions do such dangerous statements arouse among people? Do these statements assure them that the Israeli Government actually favors the achievement of peace?"

Abu-Middayn explained: "This operation was the price of the Israeli leadership's stupidity, because it wavered and hesitated in implementing the peace agreements. This leadership itself is fully aware that settlement activity is the greatest obstacle to the peace process. Therefore, nothing will stop such acts except the dismantling of settlements and the evacuation of settlers."

Abu-Middayn said: "Those killed yesterday were killed for the sake of protecting 23 settlers in Netzarim and some 50 settlers in Kfar Darom. How can the Israeli Government take a risk by planting about 2,000 settlers in the middle of a million Palestinians?"

Abu-Middayn added: "We warn the Israeli Government about the situation in the Gaza Strip if it continues to impose the intentional policy of siege, starvation, and economic warfare against our Palestinian people. If the Israeli Government keeps imposing more measures and practices and continues the siege that it imposed a few months ago, the situation will explode in such a way that no one will be able to control it. Everyone, whether Jew or Arab, will lose."

With regard to the Israeli Government's demand that the National Authority deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, Abu-Middayn said: "The Israeli Government, too, has its own Hamas and Islamic Jihad. It should treat them the same way that it demands that we behave. It also has 120,000 settlers, all of whom are Hamas and Islamic Jihad." [passage omitted]

Says Attacks Underline Flaws in Accord

TA1104104495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 95 p A3

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, PA official in charge of judicial affairs, by 'Amira Hess on 10 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] warned Israel it had information about possible terrorist attacks in the Kfar Darom and Netzarim areas, but Israeli military elements did not heed the warnings, did not take security measures, and did not conduct the necessary inspections, Furayh Abu-Middayn, the PA official in charge of judicial affairs, claims.

" 'Arafat reiterated last Saturday [8 April] that there are reports about terrorist plans to carry out suicide attacks," Abu-Middayn said, adding that "it was a mistake to send a bus with 50 soldiers. Someone should pay for that."

"The roads on which the attacks were perpetrated are the responsibility of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The problem is that your army people do not believe in peace, just like the French in Algeria under De Gaulle.

[Hess] What can be expected now, after the attacks?

[Abu-Middayn] The entire peace process could collapse. What happened Sunday reveals all the flaws in the accord. This gives the fundamentalists a chance and strengthens them, because the PA has so far been unable to offer our people anything. Living standards have fallen since the transfer of power. There have been 172 closure days in the past year. We have not offered the people anything; that is why their frustration is so great. Why is the safe passage not operational? Why are we not permitted to hold elections? This social background is what gives the fundamentalists strength.

[Hess] How effective have the measures you have taken against them so far been?

[Abu-Middayn] We have started to operate the security courts. People are being sentenced to 15 years.

[Hess] So far, only one person has been sentenced. Is that not merely retaliation? Were the trial and sentence not determined by Sunday's events?

[Abu-Middayn] It is not revenge. The trial date was set last week.

[Hess] You said five weeks ago that "within a week" you plan to present the Higher Security Council with indictments against suspected collaborators.

[Abu-Middayn] We postponed that matter and gave priority to sentencing people who undermine the peace agreement.

[Hess] What is the effectiveness of the detentions you carried out on Sunday?

[Abu-Middayn] This time, we did not arrest a single political activist, only military activists.

[Hess] Is Shaykh Ahmad Nimr a military man?

[Abu-Middayn] Ahmad Nimr preaches incitement in the mosques. The PA acts against troublemakers.

[Hess] What measures other than police action can you suggest?

[Abu-Middayn] First of all, three settlements must be evacuated: Netzarim, Kfar Darom, and Morag. Otherwise, the bloodshed will get worse and worse. Life is worth more than territory. You speak about our Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. You have 130,000 Islamic Jihad and Hamas fundamentalists. You must look to the future.

[Hess] But the settlements have remained where they are on the basis of the Oslo agreement, which you signed.

[Abu-Middayn] The Oslo agreement is not the Koran. We are weak, and you are exploiting the situation. This is not a fair game, and these are not peace ties but trickery. You are extracting concessions from us because of our weakness, and in this impossible situation you have forced on us, loss of life is the price.

Justice Minister: Police To Collect Unlicensed Arms

JN1104113995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn has stressed the supremacy of law and order and emphasized that there should not be a dual Palestinian authority because this dualism will reflect negatively on the Palestinian national security. Abu-Middayn said: We will not allow armed militias that implement operations harming the Palestinian people's interests and which do not influence Israel except by killing some individuals here and there.

The justice minister said the Palestinian police will disarm those who have no license and said that a grace period of one month will be given after which the unlicensed weapons will be collected. The Palestinian National Authority will then look into any applications for a weapon license.

The justice minister said arrests and trials will continue until the roots of anarchy are uprooted. Any citizen using violence or force to impose his opinion will be arrested.

Abu-Middayn said average Palestinians are relieved by these measures, given that the citizens are fed up with the anarchy that prevailed during the last two years of the intifadah. He stressed the need to end this anarchy.

The state security court sentenced 'Umar Shallah, aged 33, from al-Shuja'iyah in Gaza, to 25 years last night after he was charged with instigating and carrying out operations undermining national security.

PA To Arrest Bearers of Unlicensed Arms

JN1104114695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation at the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA], has stressed that the Israelis' security can be guaranteed by defending the Palestinian people's interests and securing their rights.

In a conference on the peace process held today in Jerusalem, Sha'th said the National Authority will arrest any person carrying unlicensed weapons or those who plan to carry out acts of violence.

Sha'th stressed that the detainees have the right to defend themselves before a court of law.

TV Urges Gazans To Surrender Arms

JN1204075195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority yesterday announced through Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn that it will collect unlicensed weapons in the Gaza Strip within the next month. Abu-Middayn warned of the adverse repercussions of a duality of power in the Gaza Strip, rejecting any armed operations that would harm the Palestinian people's interests. The measure was received with satisfaction and commendation by our people in the Gaza Strip, who have become fed up with the state of chaos.

In an announcement broadcast by the Palestinian television yesterday evening, the Palestinian police called on the inhabitants of Gaza to register all weapons in their possession by 21 May [as heard, other sources have reported the date as 12 May]. The television said the police will begin to register personal weapons in the possession of individuals, societies, and companies as of today. Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, commander of the Palestinian Police Force in Gaza, urged those concerned to report to the police stations in order to register their weapons.

Furayh Abu-Middayn had earlier announced that the National Authority had decided to disarm the militias. He said: We will disarm all of them because we cannot allow a power duality, which has adversely affected our national security.

Hamas Leader Expects No One To Disarm

JN1104192895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the stand of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and will it respond to the orders of the [Palestinian] Authority to hand over its weapons? This is a question colleague Ahmad Birru has put to Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders.

[Begin recording] [al-Zahhar] I@do not believe anyone will respond to this illogical demand while Israel tampers with the Palestinian people's fate. Everyone knows that Israel assassinated martyr Hani 'Abid at the Polytechnic Institute in Khan Yunus a few months ago. In the not too distant past, a place was blown up in the al-shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza. Women and children were killed, as well as people wanted by Israel.

Semi-official Israeli papers, like DAVAR, said that this is the first achievement of the Shin Bet chief. Therefore, logic says that if Palestinians from all political colors are protected from foreign attacks, the handing in of weapons will then become a necessity. But, when a person does not feel safe in his house, it would be useless to deprive those who are wanted by Israel of their weapons while the agents in Gaza and elsewhere carry out their activities and implement the policies of those who direct them.

[Birru] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has addressed a warning to all to hand over their weapons. Will you agree, will you submit to this warning, or what?

[Al-Zahhar] In my opinion, no person, whether from Hamas or any other party will submit to it, because this is an illogical demand. It weakens the Palestinians and this weakness will affect the negotiatior. Thus, the loss will be a general one.

[Birru] What about the arrest campaign the PA has waged in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Zahhar] Israel adopted the same policy and more. It resorted to killings and deportations and failed. Israel left this area, even if partially, after the failure of all these methods. I do not believe that such campaigns will achieve anything. Instead of these arrests, we believe that there should be unity of ranks and a program that does not conflict with the demands of all the sons of Palestine. A formula should be worked out to build the homeland instead of submitting to pressure by Clinton and Israel.

[Birru] How many have been arrested so far in connection with this case?

[Al-Zahhar] Their number is unspecified. But, I do not believe the number exceeds that announced by the authority?

[Birru] Is there a dialogue with the PA to calm the situation?

[Al-Zahhar] There is no dialogue. Life is proceeding normally. We try to calm the situation without there being any coordination with any party.

[Birru] Do you fear that a confrontation will take place with the Palestinian police and the PA?

[Al-Zahhar] The confrontation will be between the PA and the citizens where those the PA wants to arrest live, as was the case in Al-Zaytun quarter yesterday. From our part, we will do our best to avoid confrontation as this serves the interests of the Palestinians' enemies. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on West Bank, Gaza Situation, Jerusalem

JN0804102195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Apr 95 pp 26, 20

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA official responsible for Jerusalem, by Hatim Ghanim in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ghanim] Do you believe Israel will work and plan to go back on and give up the Oslo agreement?

[Al-Husayni] Israel has gone back on it already. It is now in a state of separation from it. Israel talks about peace and about the implementation of agreements, but it does not negotiate. It talks about the formation of committees but it does not cooperate. It makes promises and breaks them. They deal with any Palestinian action as a disaster. But whatever disastrous actions the Israelis do, that will be dealt with as something minor and insignificant. [passage omitted]

[Ghanim] How would you describe the Palestinian situation in the West bank and Gaza?

[Al-Husayni] Anger, anticipation, and preparedness to face a different future. There is a feeling that if the Israelis want to halt the peace process and withdraw from the peace option to choose the road of confrontation and violence, then the Palestinian people must begin preparing themselves for adopting that road, too.

[Ghanim] Anger toward who?

[Al-Husayni] An anger that can be felt from the highest man in power in the Palestinian Authority [PA] to the youngest people who are aware of what is going on around them.

[Ghanim] How would you perceive the future in light of this situation?

[Al-Husayni] In light of this situation, if the Israeli authorities do not move seriously, we may witness an absolutely new formula leading the political peace. If matters continue as they are, one year from now you would not be concerned to talk to me, but you would look for somebody else. We tell the Israelis you have two options. The first is represented by the Palestinian National Authority and the existing regimes in the region, which want a solution to the issue through a peaceful political process. The second is represented by the Palestinian opposition, led by Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], which sees that the solution must be through the use of violence. If Israel blocks our way, that means that it has chosen the other way. If Israel chooses the other way, then we will have no choice but to choose it. [passage omitted]

[Ghanim] How effective is the new Palestinian grouping which comprises pan-Arab activists and Islamists and which, for the first time, calls for toppling the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, I do not think this grouping will be effective because no rejectionist grouping in our region had ever succeeded. Some groupings that gathered forces to confront an external enemy have succeeded, but those who gather forces to fight an internal situation are something else. Hence, this grouping has no chance of living because the subject is not one of individuals. [passage omitted]

[Ghanim] What do you think Israel will do concerning the thorny subject of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] If Israel feels that its intransigent position on Jerusalem would halt the political process and block the development of economic relations with the Arab world it will back off on its position on Jerusalem. If we allow the development of economic and political relations between the Arab world and Israel, then it will not change its position. Anyhow, the campaign to close the channels that have been opened between Israel and some Arab countries should continue unless Israel does what it should, whether on the Palestinian track or the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. [passage omitted]

Article Says Israeli 'Provocation' Will 'Backfire'

MM1204105595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Swift and Painful Revenge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Israeli intelligence sent its agents to the heart of Gaza city to assassinate Kamal Kuhil, one of the leaders of the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, it expected painful, vengeful retaliation against its patrols and settlers like yesterday's two suicide operations in which seven Israelis were killed and 40 others injured.

The Israeli Government knows very well that the Islamic resistance never kept quiet in the past and that it took immediate revenge for every operation against its leaders, as in the case of the Bet Lid dual suicide operation which was in retaliation for the assassination of Jihad leader Hani al-'Abid, as well as the operations in al-Khudayrah, Afula, and Dezingoff Street in the heart of Tel Aviv.

Therefore, one cannot rule out the possibility that the Israeli Government deliberately provoked the Islamic resistance by assassinating one of its leaders as part of a diabolical scenario to trigger a civil war in the Gaza Strip to put off the date set for agreement on withdrawal from the West Bank and expansion of the autonomy areas, that date being 1 July.

It is no coincidence that this Israeli escalation of violence is coupled with continuous talk about an offer of an independent Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip only. We are used to Israel acting and talking, expecting the Palestinians to humbly accept.

It has become extremely costly, financially and humanly, for Israel to remain in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority [PA] has failed in the role Rabin's government wanted it to play, namely prevent all resistance factions from carrying out any political or military activity and protect the Hebrew state's borders and settlers, a very heavy mission which neither Israel and all its repressive organs nor all the imperialist powers since the dawn of history were able to accomplish.

In brief, one could say that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has failed the impossible Israeli test. Rabin's government had planned carefully to achieve that result, having obstructed the Cairo negotiations, broken all the promises of withdrawal from the West Bank, and deliberately intensified the settlement projects in occupied Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories.

Rabin's government deliberately humiliated and weakened the PA, not only to push it towards confrontation with the Islamists but also to embarrass it before its own people and to deny it any political or economic achievement. Otherwise, what is the meaning of 'Arafat being unable to invite a peaceful poet such as Mahmud Darwish to visit him in the Gaza Strip?

Israel accepted the Oslo agreement in order to get rid of the Gaza Strip and to finish off the PLO by isolating it from its Arab background. It seems to be on its way of fulfilling these two objectives. It is working on its third objective of dismembering the occupied territory by setting up cantons isolated from one another beginning with the Gaza Strip which is no more than 360 square kilometers and can easily be sealed off and isolated, marking the end of the PLO's ambitions and the final chapter in its struggle for liberation.

We hope that the Palestinians—Authority and opposition—will grasp the details of this Israeli scenario and resist it by avoiding civil war through maximum self-restraint and cool nerves. The PNA should well realize that it would be making a grave mistake if it thought that satisfying Rabin's weak and worn-out government is more important than satisfying the Palestinian people and fulfilling their legitimate ambitions and quest for a dignified life.

If the Palestinian suicide operations against Israeli targets in the autonomy areas embarrass the PNA, Israeli intelligence's assassination of the Jihad and Hamas leaders in the same areas are a greater embarrassment for it, undermining its image and standing in popular circles. The people's conditions have deteriorated since the Oslo agreement and they have reaped only negative results from peace.

Israel's recourse to provocation and plots against the PNA and its opponents at the same time will have negative repercussions for it. Weakening the PA was what strengthened Islamic extremism. Keeping the settlements in the Gaza Strip was what made them targets for suicide operations. Delay in withdrawal from the West Bank will ignite a stronger and more violent intifadah sooner or later. Israeli intelligence can also backfire.

'Arafat Returns From Visit to Cairo

JN1104184995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this evening following a short visit to Cairo. During his visit, the president conferred with his brother, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. More details on President 'Arafat's visit to Cairo in the following conversation Yusuf al-Qazzaz held with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah:

[Begin recording] [al-Qazzaz] Brother Nabil-Abu Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat: President Yasir 'Arafat has visited Egypt. Can you tell us about the results of this visit?

[Abu-Rudaynah] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Cairo this morning. Immediately upon his arrival, he met privately with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for around an hour. Afterward, the members of the two delegations joined an expanded meeting. President Abu-'Ammar briefed President Mubarak on the latest developments. They also discussed the Israeli procrastination and obstruction of all the agreements. President Mubarak also spoke about the ongoing Egyptian efforts and contacts to advance the peace process. As usual, it was a successful, positive, and fruitful meeting. It is a continuation of Egypt's efforts to support the peace process and Palestinian rights.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Abu-Rudaynah: Did the two presidents discuss the situation in the National Authority areas?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Indeed, President Abu-'Ammar briefed President Mubarak on the situation and the recent incidents. The Palestinian and Egyptian views were identical.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you, Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you, brother Yusuf. [end recording]

Bishop Returns After 26 Years 'Forced Absence'

JN1104143195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bishop Iliya Khuri, PLO Executive Committee member, returned to the homeland at the end of a forced absence that lasted for 26 years.

Bishop Iliya Khuri was welcomed on arrival by Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security in the West Bank, and Brigadier General Sa'd Naji, deputy commander National Security Forces. [passage omitted]

Algeria

FAF Urges Algerians in France To Boycott Elections

LD1004194295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been more killings in Algeria. Two men were killed in Algiers on 9 April. The mayor of a commune near the capital was killed by a bomb explosion as his car was passing.

According to the Algerian education minister, 815 schools have been the scene of acts of sabotage attributed to Islamist armed groups.

Reservists of the Algerian Army may be recalled to reinforce security during the organization of the presidential elections scheduled to take place this year. This is what the daily LE SOIR D'ALGERIE has reported.

The Algerian Brotherhood in France, FAF [Fraternite Algerienne en France], has urged those Algerians living in France to boycott the next presidential elections. The FAF, which is close to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], has denounced a recent call by the Algerian Embassy in France urging Algerians to visit consulates in order to be registered on electoral rolls.

Dembri, France's Juppe Discuss Political Crisis

BR1104124995 Paris LIBERATION in French 10 Apr 95 p 12

[Report by Gilles Millet: "At Cross-Purposes by the Mediterranean Sea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Salah Dembri met for less than an hour with his French counterpart Alain Juppe in Sainte-Maxime [France] on Sunday [9 April] on the occasion of the "informal" meetings which took place as part of the second "Mediterranean Forum." Officially, the two men discussed security problems, the presidential election to be held in Algeria by the end of 1995, and the dialogue Algiers has been attempting to start with a number of political parties. In front of the journalists, ruling out any debate with Islamists, Salah Dembri said he was delighted with President Zeroual's meetings "with the lawful political class, which has a crucial information role to play with a view to developing a critical sense among Algerians." "This is why," he added, referring to the "national contract" signed in Rome by the major parties, including the Islamic Salvation Front, "the opposition has no right to shun such discussions in favor of meetings abroad."

Algiers' position, which is nothing new, was not called into question by the French. Officially at least, Alain Juppe merely condemned "terrorist actions" and approved the fight against armed groups, while expressing appreciation for the dialogue opened with "democratic forces" among which he does not seem to include Islamists. According to Mr. Juppe, such a dialogue must lead to a "democratic election."

France's off-the-record judgment is much harsher; it has said it will change tack only if "the election is not truly democratic" but also if "the Islamists are left out." And yet, in Sainte-Maxime, no such determination was in sight, as Alain Juppe studiously avoided saying anything that could be construed as a criticism of Algeria's rulers.

The Mediterranean Forum—whose participants included Egypt, Spain, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia, and Turkey—adopted a number of "conclusions" aimed at "drawing the various countries together" for a meeting described as "informal" and whose objectives include, according to Mr. Juppe, "rebalancing (the EU) to the South."

Dembri on Prospects for Elections, Dialogue

MM1104115795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Nadya Mahadid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated text] [Mahadid] Within what framework do the contacts you have made in a number of Arab and European countries, including Britain, fall?

[Dembri] These contacts fall within the framework of the bilateral relations which bind Algeria and these countries. Do not forget that Algeria constitutes an indivisible part of the Arab world. Hence it is essential to carry out such visits to the sister countries every now and then to discuss these bilateral relations as well as other issues of common interest and to tidy up the Arab home. These are some of the top issues which preoccupy us at present.

There is a need to bring about a reconciliation in the Arab world which in our view—for us Algerians—should take place in a spirit of frankness and realism, particularly following the passage of 50 years since the establishment of the Arab League.

Today, we are in need of the organization of the Arab home on the basis of a clear plan that would preserve basic matters and the unity of Arab ranks and that would keep away all matters that would divide us.

These matters were among the issues we discussed during our recent visit to the Arab homeland in general and to Kuwait, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], and Cairo in particular.

As to the European countries, they represent the natural environment for Algeria, since it is one of the Mediterranean countries neighboring Europe and having relations with all the European countries. In this context, we had numerous visits to the European countries including visits to Britain. For with Britain, we have a good political dialogue and economic relations that have been expanding over the years. We have given the British authorities, through Sir David Howell in Parliament, a precise picture of all that we are doing in Algeria as part of a political plan to find a way out of the political crisis we find ourselves in, under the leadership of President Liamine Zeroual.

The second point in our discussions dealt with economic reform. Algeria is today at the threshold of a new 3-year agreement with the IMF. All this proves Algeria's final and actual entry into the market system.

[Mahadid] Have your discussions covered the European initiative which the British foreign secretary declared his support for last month?

[Dembri] The idea of this initiative is very far from our thoughts at present. This is because Algeria's position is well known: It categorically rejects anything that would smack of interference in our internal affairs. We as Algerians are capable of resolving the crisis that exists among the Algerians and in Algeria itself. This is our firm position which we would never abandon.

[Mahadid] A lot is being said about the Arab Maghreb. But how is solidarity among the peoples of this region practiced with regard to the conditions in Algeria?

[Dembri] We are still in the process of tidying up the Arab Maghreb house. We are still working and meeting in this regard. Indeed, we have achieved some tangible results despite all the difficulties that exist: Some agreements are being concluded and the freedom of movement of goods has today become one of the facts of daily life.

Regarding bilateral relations, we always discuss the available scope for the expansion of cooperation in the field of human resources. This we have achieved between Algeria and Libya. True, there are difficulties, perhaps, in the bilateral field, but we are capable of dealing with them.

[Mahadid] Is there joint action between Algeria and the other Arab Maghreb countries for facing up to the violence afflicting Algeria, an action which would perhaps cover the entire region in the future?

[Dembri] In this regard, there are consultations and coordinations going on within all the Arab Maghreb ministerial circles. Thus the security quarters concerned play a role in coordinating and consulting among themselves for combating all manifestations of violence, terrorism, and the smuggling of goods, drugs, and even arms.

[Mahadid] Why has the Algerian Government declared the oil field areas a prohibited zone? How do you explain this decision and what are its economic and political dimensions?

[Dembri] This is only a natural thing to do. It pertains to the security of major industrial and infrastructure installations which require special protection.

[Mahadid] Was not this measure taken in anticipation of the widening of the field of confrontation among the warring parties?

[Dembri] No. They are constitutional duties which pertain to the safeguarding of property in general.

[Mahadid] The talk about the Algerian economy leads many of us to talk about the question of Algeria's debts, though the cause of this problem lies in the drop in Algeria's oil revenues. So what are the pressures Algeria is facing in the oil market and what it is doing to raise the price of oil barrels?

[Dembri] Naturally, the basic problem lies in setting a fixed price for the barrel of oil. It is worth mentioning in this regard that consultations have been going on within the framework of OPEC as well as with other countries, and in particular the oil-consuming countries, to insure the setting of a fixed price that would guarantee us the building of our economy without any material or financial losses in the near future.

[Mahadid] What would be the fixed barrel price that would guarantee the stability of Algeria's oil revenues?

[Dembri] That price would be $18 per barrel. But, in our opinion, it could be as high as $25.

[Mahadid] The Algerian people's rejection of violence has begun to manifest itself in the form of militias in several parts of Algeria. Would not the formation of militias threaten Algeria' security and stability in the future?

[Dembri] This does not seem to me to be true in respect of the militias. The state is capable of protecting persons and properties whatever the difficulties. The state would never abandon its constitutional duties which are: defense, protection of society, and protection of persons and properties.

[Mahadid] It is said that these militias have been active in some parts of the homeland.

[Dembri] There are no militias. There is a law that permits the formation of municipal guards. This is a matter that is officially recognized in Algeria.

[Mahadid] What do you mean by municipal guards?

[Dembri] They are a municipal police force which citizens can join. But they would be considered employees like any other employees and they are attached to the national security services.

[Mahadid] There is a great deal of talk about the state's loss of control over wide areas in eastern Algeria. How true is this?

[Dembri] These are all mere rumors which really aim at harming the conditions in Algeria. Many journalists have been visiting Algeria and seeing things for themselves by themselves. They have noted that the state's authority was being exercised throughout the country.

[Mahadid] The Algerian newspapers have estimated that about 3,000 members of the armed groups were killed during the recent confrontations that took place in northern Algeria. Do you have the official figures for the number killed?

[Dembri] The quarters concerned will issue an official statement within the next few days giving the results of these operations.

[Mahadid] It appears from your statements that the state does not totally reject the ground rules pertaining to the Rome accord, as has been reported in the media. Does this mean that there is a possibility of revival of the dialogue anew among the warring parties including the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]?

[Dembri] At present, there is a dialogue going on in Algeria among the parties and societies for coordination of views and consultation about future horizons and the return to the electoral course, under the leadership of President Liamine Zeroual. This is a fact. As regards the parties, what we would never accept is diversion of the internal dialogue to the outside. For this reason, we consider the meetings in Rome, Spain, London, or anywhere else a dangerous phenomenon. The parties have a role in formulating public opinion in Algeria. Political solutions are essential and will be achieved at the hands of the Algerians themselves. This is our position.

As regards ideas, all are acceptable in a democratic system. But the important thing is: What are the ideas around which the Algerians must rally? This is what President Liamine Zeroual has defined as constitutional constants and national constants. They are:

—The preservation and defense of the 1989 constitution.
—The pluralist system.
—The basic liberties.
—Keeping the constituents of the national personality away from political dialogues.
—Alternation of authority.
—The rejection of violence as a means of attaining power and staying in power.

Once we accept these constants, there can be no objection to participation in the national dialogue and to effective contribution to it for finding a way out of the crisis.

[Mahadid] Is the state ready to recognize the FIS anew as a party and accept its participation in the dialogue?

[Dembri] In a democratic system, everything is likely. If the national constitutional constants are accepted and respected, then the door would be open to all political factions and all societies and reputable personalities to participate in the national dialogue. This is the course we follow.

[Mahadid] What was the response of the parties, including those parties which attended the Rome meeting, to the president's announcement of the holding of presidential elections at the end of the current year, 1995?

[Dembri] As I am a diplomat, each time a dialogue is initiated, it is to me a good sign. This is what we hope for our country. We want to encourage dialogue among all members of the Algerian family in order to find the necessary solutions. As Algerians we are endowed, I believe, with political shrewdness and love for our homeland. This is what we will safeguard collectively when we meet at a roundtable to discuss all the ideas that would strengthen the Algerian society and define its future horizons.

[Mahadid] Could the participation of the FLN [National Liberation Front] and the Socialist Forces Front in discussions with President Zeroual about the question of the presidential elections be construed as a reversal of the previous position of the Rome accord which rejects the discussion of such elections with the regime?

[Dembri] I believe there is a new dynamism in the dialogue and this is something that we welcome. All the parties are now playing their role in organizing and activating the dialogue among members of the Algerian family.

[Mahadid] Is there a peaceful political solution that would satisfy all sides and extricate Algeria from its tragic conditions?

[Dembri] The presidential elections represent a solution, albeit a partial one. This is what President Liamine Zeroual announced in his speech at Hassi Masoud in February. There are other stages which require the participation of all and they fall within the framework of the political solution, namely, legislative elections and local elections.

At the same time, we are working to strengthen our economy which will enable us tomorrow to meet all the homeland's needs with regard to the creation of job opportunities and the securing of homes. Algeria has achieved very good results with its economic program through the rescheduling of its debts. As a result of this policy, Algeria will have $33 billion available during the next three years, to enable it to activate its investment and raise the volume of its imports. Once more, we hope all Algerians will contribute in an effective manner to the determination of the horizons and the strict controlling of the future executive stages.

Dembri Supports Modern Cooperation With Egypt

LD1104133495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Algerian Foreign Minister] Mohamed Salah Dembri has commented on the satisfactory relations between Algeria and Egypt:

[Begin Dembri recording] We want to build a modern-style cooperation with Egypt. This should also mean strategic cooperation. There is an economic potential in the two countries and this must be directed toward investments, cooperation involving our means of production, and an increase in trade exchanges. [end recording]

Arab Press Chief on Egypt-Algeria Ties

LD1004215895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Nafi', dean of the Arabic press, [editor of AL-AHRAM], held a news conference this afternoon at Djenane El-Mithak in which he dealt with the situation in Algeria, and strengthening bilateral relations between Egypt and Algeria.

Ibrahim Nafi' started his news conference by talking about bilateral relations between Egypt and Algeria, which he said were being consolidated more and more, particularly at the economic and political levels. When asked about the development of the security situation in Algeria, the dean of the Arabic press said that his visit to Algeria has changed the huge and distorted picture carried by the different mass media.

Concerning the phenomenon of violence known generally to Arab societies, and particularly to Egypt and Algeria, Ibrahim Nafi' said emphasis should be laid on humanitarian relations, because most of the victims of this phenomenon were from among the innocent, and as he said, light should be finally shed on the people's interest which has been destroyed, and security and safety of the citizens should be guaranteed.

Concerning the prospects of media cooperation between Egypt and Algeria, Ibrahim Nafi' said that the spheres of cooperation between the two countries are available at all levels, because it is a strategic relationship. He stressed the need to deepen foreign and security relations, and suggested in the media spheres the creation of an Arab satellite station, or a joint Arab newspaper.

Concerning the challenge which is facing the Arab nation, Ibrahim Nafi' said that the world is witnessing large technological and political transformations; thus there should be a unified Arab action, as an alternative, to confront these challenges.

He also concentrated on the true democratic choice, without which, according to him, no change will be introduced to the reality of the Arab nation.

Egypt's Musa Discusses Middle East Peace Process

LD1104163495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who has been in Algiers for two days now, commented on the Middle East peace process, speaking out in favor of the continuation of the process. Mr. 'Amr Musa spoke to Rachida Touazi:

[Begin Musa recording] There are still so many problems and the peace process requires the efforts of everyone, efforts on the part of ourselves, the Arabs, Europe, and America. The Palestinians must be helped. The two sides—Israel and the Palestinians—must be urged to support and implement the agreement in the signed form. [end recording]

Al-Tahaddi 'Reserved' on Presidential Elections

LD1104172695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The bilateral consultations between the presidency and the political parties continues. Today, Tuesday, it was the al-Tahaddi Movement's turn to be received. The delegation was led by Hachemi Cherif, the party's secretary general. Leila Smail:

[Smail] One cannot criticize al-Tahaddi for not being consistent in its ideas. Thus, on occasions several months apart Hachemi Cherif has stated first of all that it could not take part in a dialogue which included the fundamentalist parties, which should have been banned under Article 40 of the Constitution. Further, there can be no real dialogue with parties which refuse to condemn terrorism and seek by all possible means to rehabilitate the banned FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. The FIS is described as being beyond redemption, all the more so since it has claimed paternity of the terrorist groups which want to destroy Algeria. Al-Tahaddi is also categorical in its rejection of the Rome Platform, which in its view represents an open door to fundamentalism and foreign interference.

On the other hand al-Tahaddi has been very reserved about the question of presidential elections, giving preference to a strategy for the rallying of the democratic movement rather than elections, and according to al-Tahaddi the first duty of patriots is to safeguard the Algerian people's chances of attaining true modernity and democracy, hence the proposal of a certain number of ideas which would go beyond [depasser] presidential elections, which would thus become pointless, and although al-Tahaddi boycotted the last multilateral talks, it took part in the bilateral talks which followed, and went to the presidency this morning.

Leader Urges 'Major Changes'

LD1204095395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hachemi Cherif, heading a delegation of al-tahaddi, was received by President Zeroual on 11 April. How does the leader of al-tahaddi assess the ongoing talks? The following is his answer:

[Begin Cherif recording] Any position that must be taken in the current circumstances toward a return to the electoral process must be based on a comprehensive analysis of the crisis the Algerian society is experiencing. Then there are the political and security conditions in the country: We cannot imagine for one second that by December of this year the citizens of this country—who fall prey to blind terrorism—can vote with a minimum of freedom, conscience, and freedom of movement. So, as far as we are concerned, major changes must take place before universal suffrage is restored. [end recording]

Security Services Kill 20 'Terrorists'

LD1104185595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, a security services' statement said that the forces of the security services had succeeded in eliminating 20 terrorists in Algiers, Tipaza, Chlef, Tlemcen, Blida, and El-Taref.

The security forces had also succeeded in arresting 12 people involved in carrying out assassination operations, and in possession of a quantity of weapons and explosives, and referred them to justice.

The security services' statement also pointed out that the security forces had recovered a quantity of weapons during their operations.

Increase in Gasoline, Diesel Prices Announced

LD0704130395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Industry and Energy has issued a statement announcing that the new revision of hydrocarbon prices came into force today. According to his revision, the statement added, a liter of four star gasoline goes up to 12.40 dinars, a liter of ordinary gasoline goes up to 10.40 dinars, and a liter of diesel goes up to 7 dinars. Hence, the increases add one dinar to a liter of gasoline and half a dinar to a liter of diesel.

The statement of the Ministry of Industry and Energy points out that the increases are within the framework of introducing a gradual price adjustment and balancing the country's budget.

Egypt

Reportage on 'Arafat Visit for Peace Process Talks

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo

NC1104090795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo today on a visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the peace process.

Receiving him on arrival was Dr. Muhammad Zaki Abu-'Amir, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, and staff of the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo.

Says Israel Provoking Civil War

NC1104165395 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 11 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday [11 April] accused Israel of arming HAMAS militants to spark a Palestinian civil war as the self-rule authority cracked down on the hardliners following two suicide bombings.

"One of the problems resulting from the (Israeli) occupation is that it opened a market for weapons sales in the West Bank and Gaza," 'Arafat told reporters in Cairo after talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

"Israel's goal behind this is to light the fuse of a civil war in Palestine. But the Palestinian people will not allow themselves to be drawn into such whirlpools."

The PLO leader briefed Mubarak after Sunday's double bombings outside two Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American woman.

He accused HAMAS of seeking to "give excuses to Israel to suspend" the peace process and called them "charlatans" luring teenagers as young as 13 to carry out suicide attacks with promises of martyrdom and paradise.

After the talks, Mubarak's political advisor Usamah al-Baz said 'Arafat "expressed willingness to do all he can to confiscate arms and to tighten control" of weapons.

But 'Arafat said some of the weapons circulating in the self-rule areas were Israeli. He wanted the Israeli authorities to "cooperate in preventing the smuggling of arms," al-Baz said.

The Palestinian Authority announced Tuesday it would disarm all militant groups. It has arrested more than 200 hardliners since Sunday and handed down long prison terms to two Islamic Jihad members.

Al-Baz said 'Arafat was not seriously concerned the crackdown "could result in the type of civil war some people have been warning about."

HAMAS warned in Amman that the PLO leader was "playing with fire, while Islamic Jihad said they would hit back at the right time and place.

Mubarak, who has been fighting his own campaign against Moslem extremists in Egypt since March 1992, backed 'Arafat in his struggle against the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and Islamic Jihad, who claimed Sunday's car bombings.

"We fully sympathise with his predicament," al-Baz said.

A HAMAS leader in Gaza warned that relations with the self-rule authority were very strained.

But 'Arafat stressed: "Relations between the Palestinian Authority and HAMAS have nothing to do with our negotiations with Israel and we insist on the implementation of what has been agreed upon."

Chief Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat attended the Mubarak- 'Arafat meeting before returning to talks with the Israelis trying to nail down a deal on self-rule elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last month set a July 1 target date for reaching an agreement on the next phase of self-rule which includes an Israeli army withdrawal from Palestinian built-up areas on the West Bank ahead of elections.

Says Israel Opened Weapons Market

NC1104193495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today. The two presidents held a private meeting that was followed by an expanded round of talks. [passage omitted]

Palestinian President 'Arafat stated that he had briefed President Mubarak on the Palestinian position in light of the recent events in Gaza. He noted that during their meeting they had discussed new ideas related to emphasizing the need to implement the agreements reached in the Declaration of Principles and to continue the contacts with parties that can influence Israel as well as direct and indirect contacts with Israel.

Regarding the repercussions of the recent suicide operation in Gaza, 'Arafat asked: How far has any country managed to fully control acts of violence on its territory? President 'Arafat expressed regret that the aid received is not up to the required magnitude. He added: We hope that donor states will fulfill their promises. He noted that promises had been made by the Netherlands, France, and Italy to finance the building of an airport in Gaza. Other promises were made by Germany and Turkey to build a Palestinian naval port, he added.

The Palestinian president pointed out that there are other projects in the field of electricity, telecommunications, petroleum, and infrastructure which had been fully destroyed by the occupation. He noted that the Israeli occupation authorities had removed the train tracks and used them for military purposes.

'Arafat noted that the Israeli occupation has opened a market for weapons sales in Gaza and the West Bank. He added that he had met with the ambassadors of all the Arab states as well as the ambassadors of the United States and Russia and asked them to see how weapons are being sold in the West Bank and Gaza. He added that Israel's goal behind this is to ignite an inter-Palestinian civil war. 'Arafat added: Everybody must realize that our people are civilized and religious and will not allow themselves to be drawn into such whirlpools.

Concerning Jerusalem, the Palestinian president pointed out that Israeli attempts are under way to buy land, particularly around Jerusalem, even using forged documents. He noted that the Palestinian National Authority had set up a higher committee chaired by Faysal al-Husayni and the minister of awqaf to follow up this matter in particular, in view of its seriousness. He added: We have managed to seize some of the Israeli forged documents.

Al-Baz Comments on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC1104143895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, made a statement after President Husni Mubarak's talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today. Al-Baz said it was clear during the talks that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is determined to pursue the peace process and confront the challenges, whether on the security side or in pressing ahead with the next measures and arrangements upon which the extension of the PA to all occupied territories will depend.

He added that the PA intends to hold Palestinian elections on a date set before 1 July.

Following the approximately two-hour talks between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat at the Presidential Office in Cairo, al-Baz said Mubarak listened to a briefing from President 'Arafat on the regrettable incidents that happened in Gaza in the last two days, the progress of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Israeli forces' redeployment.

Al-Baz added: We feel great regret at the loss of lives and at any terrorist acts because they block the process and give a wrong idea about the Palestinian people and their record and struggle.

He emphasized that there is insistence on pursuing the peace process despite these events and expressed his hope that such incidents will decrease. He noted that to lessen these incidents and prevent more acts of violence, we hope the Palestinian economic conditions will improve.

He said that security cannot be maintained by repressive acts but through several measures, such as prior security arrangements and the improvement of the economic situation so that there would be no pretext to disseminate subversive ideas inciting acts of violence and terrorism and causing despair in the Palestinian people about the possibility of progress in the peace process.

Replying to a question on whether deploying UN forces in the Palestinian territories was discussed during the talks between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat, al-Baz said: "This issue was not raised."

On a reported proposal to disarm extremist groups in the Gaza Strip, he said the Palestinian president mentioned this point in his talks with President Mubarak and expressed his readiness to do his best to confiscate weapons and tighten control.

Al-Baz said 'Arafat noted that some of these weapons that have been smuggled into and distributed in the occupied territories are of Israeli origin and that he has asked the Israeli authorities to tighten their grip on smuggling and cooperate to prevent the smuggling of arms and all kinds of explosive material.

Al-Baz was asked about the proposal to dismantle Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip to help solve the problem. He replied: I believe the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides could tackle all these issues and we are here to help both sides reach an agreement on this issue.

Al-Baz added that 'Arafat affirmed in his talks with President Mubarak that the PA is able to face all security challenges and that he has called on Israel to adopt definitive measures to facilitate this task for the PA.

He went on to say that 'Arafat also called for streamlining the movement of people and goods along the borders between Egypt and the Gaza Strip and between Jordan and the West Bank.

He added: We believe that facilitating the movement will lead to prosperity or at least to an economic activity that will deprive the radicals and extremists of the ammunition they are using because they exploit the state of misery and destitution from which the Palestinians are suffering in the occupied territories.

Al-Baz emphasized that holding the Palestinian elections on the set date in early July is vital for the Palestinians and all parties, as the Palestinian president said.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that 'Arafat believes it is important for Israel to comply with the final date for holding the Palestinian elections. 'Arafat also believes this issue can be easily arranged because the PA has done all it could to guarantee these elections and made sure all the required arrangements for the elections have been made.

Dr. al-Baz noted that 'Arafat clarified that the Palestinian side has indeed trained more than 5,000 Palestinians in organizing and supervising the elections, stressing that this process will be subject to supervision by several international committees.

Responding to a question on whether during his talks with President Mubarak today, 'Arafat had noted any progress in the ongoing talks with Israel over the elections, Dr. al-Baz noted that 'Arafat said that the terrorist operations that occurred recently have thrown a shadow over the negotiations but that it seems there is confidence the next round of talks will see tangible progress in facilitating the elections.

Asked if 'Arafat fears Israel may use these terrorist operations as a pretext for postponing the Palestinian elections, Dr. al-Baz said: We do not believe Israel will do that because there is no reason. He added that it is in the interest of all parties to facilitate the process and to implement the agreement. He noted that certain Palestinians indeed fear this but 'Arafat did not voice these fears to us.

Responding to a question on 'Arafat's ability to control the security situation and disarm the intransigent groups, Dr. al-Baz said that 'Arafat is able to achieve this. He noted that 'Arafat declared that those accused of terrorist activities will be put on trial and that the Palestinian judicial organizations assigned to conduct the trials have begun to hand down their verdicts, noting that verdicts were passed against more than two people. He pointed out that 'Arafat has stressed that he is determined to continue on this line, adding: "It is vital for the PA to shoulder all its responsibilities."

Dr. al-Baz expressed his conviction that the PA has no reason to violate human rights. Al-Baz was answering a question on a report by human rights organizations abroad that the trials in the Palestinian territory violate human rights. Al-Baz criticized the method the International Organization of Human Rights [IOHR] followed, demanding first that defendants in terrorist operations be tried and when they were referred to court, the IOHR accused the PA of organizing illegal trials. He stressed that the PA is responsible for the situation in the Palestinian territories and must at the same time observe human rights.

Al-Baz: Dispute With Israel Should Not Stop Ties

NC1104195295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, met this evening with Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev, who is currently visiting Egypt. Dr. al-Baz stated that they discussed cooperation between Egypt and Israel in the field of energy. He added that the difference in views that exists between Egypt and Israel on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] does not mean that bilateral cooperation in the various fields should come to a halt. Egypt, he added, views this issue within the broader context of the peace process, the future of the region, and the relations among its peoples.

For his part, the Israeli minister stated that they had discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of energy. He added that contacts are under way between Egypt and Israel over the question of the NPT.

The Israeli energy minister met earlier today with Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah and Petroleum Minister Engineer Hamdi al-Banbi to follow up the developments regarding the export of natural gas to Israel, the Palestinian territories, and Jordan and to exchange views and ideas on this matter.

Al-Baz Says 5-Year Reviews of NPT Sought

NC1104194895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt's position on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will be determined before the signatories' meeting in New York on 9 May. He said that the Egyptian position will depend on Israel's position on the treaty.

Speaking at a lecture at the Egyptian Society for International Law last evening, al-Baz pointed out that Egypt does not wish to withdraw from the treaty, since it was one of the 18 countries that signed it in 1968. He added that Egypt wants Israel to commit itself to the treaty. Al-Baz revealed that Egypt is making contacts to reach an Israeli position on the NPT and nuclear armament. Egypt's position will balance the Israeli position in that connection, he remarked.

Al-Baz pointed out that Egypt's position is against the indefinite extension of the NPT and that it wants the treaty to be reviewed every five years. We want the NPT to be global and to be signed by all world states, including Israel, he said.

Touching on the Arab League role, al-Baz affirmed in his lecture that Egypt backs the consolidation of the League and its role. There is no alternative but for the League to achieve Arab solidarity and enhance joint Arab action, he said.

Petroleum Minister Meets Israeli Energy Minister

NC1104184095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has announced that the first phase of the natural gas exportation will include some Eastern Mediterranean countries that have shown a desire to import it, especially Jordan, Palestine, and Turkey.

In a statement after a meeting with Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev, who is currently visiting Cairo, al-Banbi said natural gas will not be exported until after self-sufficiency has been achieved. Self-sufficiency, he added, will be achieved during the time period set to complete the project of natural gas exportation.

During their meeting today, the petroleum minister and the Israeli energy minister reviewed the process for exporting natural gas to Israel.

The Petroleum Ministry has issued a statement saying that agreement has been reached to continue the work assigned to the previously formed technical committees to examine the quick implementation of the project and establish the bases for an agreement to export gas before beginning exports.

Israeli Energy Minister Concludes Visit

NC1204055995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev and his delegation left Cairo following a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit the Israeli minister held talks with Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi and the minister of electricity and energy engineer, Mahir Abazah. The talks dealt with the means to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and Israel in the fields of electricity, petroleum, and natural gas.

In a predeparture statement, Segev said his talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, touched on the means to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of energy. He said the existing dispute between the two countries over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty does not mean that cooperation should be suspended in other areas. He added that Egypt and Israel are holding contacts in this regard.

Continuing, the Israeli minister said Dr. al-Baz stressed that Egypt views the Treaty issue from the broadest peace perspective possible, considering the future of the region and relations among the nations.

Mubarak on Financing of Terrorism, U.S. Aid

NC1204062295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that terrorist activities are being financed from abroad and that those who perpetrate these crimes get funds through banks in Italy and sometimes in Greece and Cyprus. He added that the money is then transferred to Jordan or some other country. He noted that the Egyptian Government is now searching for the sources of these fund transfers, some of which originate in the United States.

In an interview with THE LOS ANGELES TIMES also published by AL-AHRAM in its Wednesday [12 April] issue, President Mubarak refused to describe the perpetrators of terrorist crimes as Islamists, pointing out that

Islam does not support violence, bloodshed, or hatred. He declared that the perpetrators of these crimes are not sincere Muslims.

The president denied any similarity between events in Algeria and Egypt, pointing out that the first government in the history of the world was established on the banks of the Nile and Egypt is able to control all forms of extremism and violence.

President Mubarak voiced fears that the violence in Algeria will continue until it produces a situation similar to that in Afghanistan. He remarked that Algeria accepted the establishment of a religious party in contravention of the Algerian Constitution's ban on religious parties.

Asked about U.S. aid to Egypt, President Husni Mubarak told THE LOS ANGELES TIMES that allegations that this aid has failed to achieve its objective or is not being used properly by the Egyptians are false. He remarked that the aid mutually benefits the two countries; it is not being given to Egypt just to please it. He explained that the aid is spent inside the United States under the supervision and administration of the U.S. authorities. He said that Egypt buys equipment and weapons from the United States under the supervision of the U.S. Government or the Agency for International Development.

On another issue President Mubarak declared that he cannot carry out privatization too hastily or the same thing that happened in Mexico will happen in Egypt. He added that the Egyptian Government cannot implement all the IMF's demands. Pointing out that the IMF presents the same program to all countries and demands that they implement it, President Mubarak said that each country has different traditions, social conditions, and ways of handling issues.

UN Envoy Condemns Draft Nuclear Resolution

NC1204084695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative to the United Nations, has criticized the rapid move by the five permanent members of the Security Council to present the draft resolution on the Council's guarantees to non-nuclear countries. Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi said the draft resolution the Security Council approved last night with a unanimous vote lacks basic principles, one of which is a prior commitment to considering the use or threat to use nuclear weapons as a threat to international peace and security. It also lacks a mechanism to guarantee the response from the Security Council to threats to use nuclear weapons or attacks in which nuclear weapons are used. The draft resolution contained no commitment by the Council that effective group measures will be taken to prevent and terminate peace threats and stop acts of violence or any other violations of peace.

In a statement he delivered at the Security Council yesterday, Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi said the nuclear countries must prove, as part of their definite commitment to the non-nuclear countries that signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, that their security will not be endangered through the use of nuclear weapons, and that they will offer real help and protection if they are threatened.

The Security Council resolution calls on the member countries, together or separately, to offer technical, medical, scientific, or humanitarian aid, as well as compensation in accordance with the international law of the Treaty's member country subjected to an act of aggression with the use of nuclear weapons.

Musa Comments on Tour of Algeria, France, Spain

NC1204070995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will submit a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of his visit to Algeria and his meetings with President Liamine Zeroual as well as on the results of the Mediterranean Forum meetings in France. 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo last night from Spain after a visit lasting several hours as part his tour that also took in Algeria and France.

'Amr Musa said the objective of his visit to Spain was to discuss agreements between Egypt and Spain, which need to be organized. Spain will be chairing the European Union [EU] in two months time. He also discussed the Barcelona conference, which brings together the EU and the Mediterranean countries.

Musa said they also discussed issues relating to the Mediterranean Forum and Spain's interest in the peace process and the great role it plays in the Mediterranean basin.

On the joint Egyptian-Algerian committee, 'Amr Musa said it emerged with positive results. Agreement was reached over practical steps to strengthen bilateral relations. Agreements were signed. Discussions are under way regarding other agreements to boost relations in various fields, such as economic cooperation and dual taxation, to establish a broad framework for Egyptian-Algerian cooperation.

On the meeting of the Mediterranean Forum countries' foreign ministers held in Sainte-Maxime in the south of France, 'Amr Musa said he proposed some ideas for cooperation. Projects were approved within the framework of educational cooperation. The foreign ministers also agreed to an Egyptian proposal to translate 1,000 books.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister on Ties With Egypt

NC1004041495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of defense, has described his country's relations with Egypt as sincere and warm both at the top level and at the levels of the ministers and the people.

The Kuwaiti defense minister says in an interview with the Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH to be published tomorrow, Monday, that relations with Egypt are comprehensive and ideal. He only wished that Kuwait had such relations with other countries too. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti defense minister spoke in his interview about the attack on an Egyptian doctor working in Kuwait, as a result of which the doctor was permanently handicapped by eye damage. He said what happened does not reflect sensitivities nor ulterior motives or grudges. He affirmed that it was merely an ordinary fight between two people who could have been Kuwaitis or Egyptians or one of each. Fights happen in Kuwait exactly as they do in the United States or England. They are just part of daily life and there is no way to prevent them. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about Kuwait's recent reception of a delegation from the opposition Iraqi National Congress and whether there was any coordination with the Congress, Shaykh al-Hamud al- Sabah said: We receive any Arab who wants to visit Kuwait and meet with the brothers here, be they on ministers or lower officials. This has been our position on the Palestinians, Sudanese, and Jordanians. Once again, we shall not be torn away from Arabism.

As for the existence of coordination between us and the Iraqi National Congress, of course there is such coordination, the objective of which is to exchange opinions and consult over issues regarding Iraq or the organizational formations of the Congress.

Reportage on Yemeni Parliament Speaker's Visit

Arrives for 3-Day Visit

NC0904111095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Yemeni House of Deputies Speaker 'Abdallah al-Ahmar arrived in Cairo today at the head of a delegation representing various political parties in the parliament for a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

In an arrival statement, al-Ahmar said he will convey an oral message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Husni Mubarak on boosting relations between the two countries, noting that the message is part of the continuous contacts between the two leaders.

He added that he and Egyptian officials will discuss ways to promote and develop parliamentary ties. Praising Egypt's and President Mubarak's role in solving Arab problems, he said Egypt is the leader of the Arab region. He was received at the airport by the People's Assembly Under Secretary Ahmad Hammadi and members of the Yemeni embassy in Cairo.

Denies Yemen Harboring 'Extremists'

NC1104154995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a verbal message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral ties. Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, conveyed the message during a meeting with President Mubarak at the presidential office this morning.

Speaking after the one-hour meeting, Shaykh al-Ahmar described the meeting as good. During the meeting, relations between the two fraternal states were reviewed. He said he hoped that his visit and meeting with President Mubarak would have fruitful results in promoting the close bilateral ties and consolidating bilateral cooperation to serve bilateral, Arab, and international issues. The Yemeni official stressed that extremely close ties link Egypt and Yemen. He appreciated the good spirit that President Mubarak had shown toward the Yemeni delegation during the meeting. Shaykh al-Ahmar added that President Mubarak had asked him to convey a message to President Salih.

Asked about the latest developments between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Shaykh al-Ahmar noted that the Yemeni-Saudi talks are proceeding on track expeditiously and with firm, solid, and sincere steps. He added that the door is now open to a fraternal and peaceful dialogue following the signing of the memorandum of understanding in Ramadan [February]. This memorandum, he added, has restored Yemeni-Saudi relations to what they used to be before the Gulf crisis. He stressed that Yemen and Saudi Arabia are linked by strong and fraternal ties and that things are evolving toward what is best for the two countries.

Asked if he had discussed with President Mubarak the reports on the presence of Egyptian extremists in Yemen, where they receive training and with whom the Yemeni Reform Grouping sympathizes, al-Ahmar said that these reports, information, and rumors are totally unfounded. He added: In this regard, we have sensed understanding on the part of President Mubarak, who is aware that all reports mentioned in this respect are groundless.

Al-Ahmar stressed Yemen's sensitivity to the security of Egypt. He added: We are indebted to the Egyptian people, and Yemen cannot reciprocate this debt with harm or by sheltering elements that are hostile to Egypt. He added that the Yemeni leadership and people sympathize with Egypt, its policy, and its security in all circumstances, noting that what is being said is untrue. Yemen, he added, harbors amity and appreciation for

Egypt, and it cannot permit any extremist, terrorist, or any person hostile to Egypt to live in it.

Supports Position on Nuclear Treaty

JN1204061995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of Yemen's House of Representatives, who is now visiting Egypt at the head of a large parliamentary delegation.

During the meeting, the brother house speaker conveyed a message from brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message concerns ties between the two sisterly countries and means to enhance and advance them, as well as issues of mutual concern. President Mubarak asked Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar to convey a message on the same subjects to brother President Lt. Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

During the meeting, the two sides held a cordial conversation and discussed the ties of cooperation between the two countries and means to advance them.

The house speaker voiced gratitude and appreciation for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for the efforts he is exerting to restore Arab solidarity and end the Arab rift. He stressed that our country supports Egypt's resolute position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Ahmad Luqman, Yemen's ambassador to Cairo and permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Columnist Views Mubarak's Trip to U.S.

NC1104143795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 8

[From the "Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Washington Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many observers have perhaps noticed that President Mubarak spent the first two days of his important visit and continued talks in Washington in a series of meetings and interviews, mostly with the chairmen and members of the main Congressional committees and subcommittees and with heads of other Congressional groups representing both the Republican and Democratic Parties, the majority and minority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. He did this before he met with senior U.S. Government officials, beginning with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Commerce Brown, Vice President Al Gore, and ending with President Bill Clinton.

It seems as though the emphasis in President Mubarak's visit this time was the need to find common ground and accord with the representatives of the legislative authority in the Congress, win over their confidence, discuss the issues that concern both countries, and elaborate on Egypt's views. President Mubarak wanted to explain these issues himself, even though the Egyptian officials spared no efforts to expound on the Egyptian stances on the issues on which Egypt and the United States differ.

The reason for this approach is primarily due to the transformation in U.S. political orientations following last fall's shift of power from the White House to the Republican majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. This drastic change was considered to be a unique phenomenon in the United States; that is, a government in power exercising its executive powers without sufficient cover from the Congressional majority to implement its policy.

Here arises the real importance of President Mubarak's talks in Washington. Under this transformation the U.S. Democratic Administration has to obtain the support of the Republican majority in every decision it makes on such issues as foreign aid or its general policies on the Middle East, specifically the nuclear issue, the peace talks, and Israel's intransigent stance that enjoys broad support from senators and House representatives. We cannot ignore that more than 90 senators, mostly Republicans, recently demanded that the American Embassy be moved to Jerusalem. These members are also the same who raise the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt and are behind the campaigns launched by the U.S. media against Egypt.

President Mubarak certainly faced a heavy task in addressing the Congressional leaders and members to convince them of our views in a world based on direct dialogue and contacts and exchange of interests to convince them of the important role Egypt is playing.

Mubarak's U.S. Visit 'Major Achievement'

NC0904155295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Egyptian Diplomacy and Its Attempts To Serve National and Pan-Arab Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The intensive activity by the Egyptian diplomatic corps and the constant efforts of Egypt's political leadership aims to achieve national objectives and serve pan-Arab interests. Active Egyptian diplomacy is one of the foundations of national action, which is primarily aimed at mustering international support and preparing the foreign political climate to support national issues politically and economically. It is no exaggeration to say that thanks to the efforts of the political leadership and the work of official diplomatic channels, Egypt's foreign policy scored many successes, which helped shape Egypt's civilized image and entrench its leading political role regionally and internationally.

President Mubarak's continuous work, through his laborious foreign trips in the East and the West, to solve problems and surmount the impossible, is a wonderful national effort for which our political leadership gets credit, and it adds much to the economic reform policies. President Mubarak's visit to Tokyo was successful on both political and economic levels. Likewise, his visit to Washington was a major achievement by any standard. The Egyptian-U.S. summit meeting was up to the desired level of frankness and clarity in discussing topics and explaining positions. It exceeded all expectations and put a decisive end to all adverse bets.

The visit and its results were a lesson in self-respect and correct dealings between states. It was a message with deep implications and great significance. Friendship does not mean subservience; and differences in viewpoints do not mean enmity nor do they spoil cordial relations. U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement during the international news conference after the summit showed how much pride the United States takes in its friendship with Egypt. President Clinton stressed that Egypt is the main factor of stability in the region and that the United States is looking forward to maintaining its partnership with Egypt for the well being of all sides. He said that despite the U.S. position, which envisages a need for an indefinite renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty for the sake of international peace, President Mubarak has his own opinion and viewpoint. President Mubarak explained this by underlining the universal nature of the treaty and the need for Israel to join it so that stability and peace can be achieved in the Middle East.

Within the framework of persistent work to achieve national objectives and pan-Arab interests, Egypt actively and efficiently participated in the second session of the foreign ministers of the Mediterranean Forum in Sainte-Maxime in southern France. The success of the meetings will mean direct success for the active Egyptian diplomacy in serving pan-Arab interests and achieving prosperity, security, and common understanding among the Mediterranean states. The Mediterranean Forum is the practical embodiment of the initiative offered by President Mubarak in Strasbourg in 1991 to establish cooperation and interaction between the states of the region, to support security and economic and political stability there, and to remove all causes of tension and disputes.

Egypt's continued efforts to achieve security, stability, and peace for all peoples of the region are effective contributions to the serious progress from the political planning and preparation stage to the stage of reaping fruits and realizing objectives. The various circles of diplomatic activity—which have expanded to involve all levels and all neighboring states—seek first and foremost to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and support causes of social stability and economic prosperity for their peoples. These objectives can never be achieved in the shadow of conventional weapons arsenals or threats of weapons of mass destruction.

Editorial Says Egypt Backing Down on NPT

NC1104203395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Go Back to the People So That We May Protect Our National Dignity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It's all over, and things have become clear. It has transpired that Egypt is heading toward signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Instead of President Mubarak's obtaining a promise from the U.S. President during his recent trip to Washington to pressure Israel or compel it to adopt a similar position, President Mubarak has declared that Egypt will not withdraw from the treaty!! Thus, the Israeli nuclear threat against Egypt and all the Arabs will remain without any commitment on Israel's part.

Instead of maintaining the Egyptian hard-line position, which stems from Egypt's understanding of Egyptian and pan-Arab security, we find that Egypt is backing down, unfortunately. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa hastened to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for talks and more talks. And then what we had expected took place. The two ministers meeting in Paris failed to reach a result. All they did was simply agree to hold another meeting, the date and place of which is yet to be set!!

All this is happening while the date for voting on the renewal of the NPT at the end of the month is approaching. Since President Mubarak's return, we have been hearing a new tune that focuses on opening the door to negotiations between Israel on the one hand and all the Arab states on the other.

The strange thing is that in his response to a question on how to protect Egypt's national security, President Clinton stated that this is possible through efforts to free the region of weapons of mass destruction. But the U.S. President has not told us how this or a comprehensive peace can be attained. It is obvious that the United States only cares about guaranteeing Israel's peace. As for the peace of Egypt and all the Arabs, it does not count.

Although we are not trying to cry over spilled milk, we say that [the late president] Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir is responsible for the predicament Egypt is facing today. For he is the one who signed the first treaty in 1969, thus putting chains on Egypt's policy while fully aware of Israel's nuclear plans.

Now, President Mubarak must go back to the Egyptian people, who are the ones primarily concerned with the issue. It is certain that the Egyptian people are capable of protecting their national dignity.

Gaza Bombings Seen as Supporting Israel's Claims on NPT

NC1104170695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "A Misjudgment or a Betrayal of the Cause?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab efforts in general and Egyptian in particular continue to promote peace. This is demonstrated by Egypt's insistence on the need for Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which will come up for renewal later this month, thus becoming an inescapable, inviolable, and lifelong restraint for all countries. While efforts continue to persuade Israel to join this treaty as a step toward freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction and achieving a comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East, some elements are moving in the dark to conspire against all the serious attempts to resolve the Palestinian question.

In his remarks to the U.S. wide-coverage media, President Mubarak has stressed that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East conflict and that all international attempts seeking to establish a durable peace in the region stumble over the Palestinian problem. These remarks show the Egyptian political leadership's desire to turn Western attention toward the Palestinian issue in particular as a prelude toward resolving the Middle East conflict. The response came fast when the U.S. Administration decided to allocate financial aid to the Palestinian Authority in this year's budget to help it rebuild the infrastructure in the liberated Palestinian territories and meet the demands of the current stage, particularly since the economic crisis facing the Palestinian people was and remains one of the elements motivating violence and terrorism. This results in further escalation by the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The two recent operations in Gaza, which those who committed and instigated them thought would serve the Palestinian cause or help resolve the Middle East problem in accordance with the international resolutions and the land for peace principle, have put the Palestinian issue back many years. The Israeli media will turn the two operations into a public opinion issue, demanding retribution, the suspension of the peace talks, the continued siege of the Palestinian people inside Gaza and the occupied territories, and the resumption of the war of starvation previously waged by Israel against innocent Palestinians. More importantly, Israel's allegations and arguments for excusing itself from signing the NPT and its refusal to permit an inspection of its nuclear installations are primarily based on the claim that it is threatened by its neighbors, who outnumber it. Accordingly, such allegations, although unsubstantiated, are met with wide approval in Western quarters.

Israel will use this miscalculated adventure to win more support for its allegations, although they lack much objectivity or acceptable reason. What these people have done, imagining it to be an act of heroism, is nothing but an act of support and justification for Israel's position on its possession of nuclear weapons. It is something that Israel badly needs and that has come at the appropriate time, unfortunately at the hands of organizations that categorize themselves as among the strugglers. Although all signs indicate that Israel is not serious or enthusiastic enough to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace with the Arabs in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, following the October military victories Egypt has raised the slogan of war for peace with Israel on the premise that wars, no matter how long they last, do not settle conflicts in favor of any party. Thus, the slogan of peace, which Egypt adopts and struggles politically to achieve, could materialize not in the distant future if Israel responded to the voice of reason and reached out for peace with the Palestinians, millions of whom continue to welcome and call for peace despite the difficult conditions they live under.

While calling on Israel to be prudent in the face of these attempts that seek to strike at peace, we stress that expediting the efforts for a comprehensive peace is the decisive response that could abort such actions and completely eliminate the enemies of peace on both sides.

Sudan

Iranian Majles Speaker Assails 'Arrogant Powers'

LD1104204995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri ended his three-day visit to Kuwait on Tuesday afternoon and departed for Sudan. We draw your attention to a report from our correspondent in Khartoum.

[Correspondent] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in Sudan this afternoon and was officially welcomed at Khartoum airport by Muhammad Amin Khalifah, the speaker of Sudan's national parliament, and a number of other state officials. The Majles speaker took part in an interview with correspondents at Khartoum airport and explained the aims of his visit to Sudan. He said: This visit is in response to an invitation from the speaker of Sudan's national parliament.

In response to a question by a correspondent asking why America and other arrogant powers have planned joint attacks against the two Islamic countries of Iran and Sudan, Nateq-Nuri said: The arrogant powers are worried about the profound and sincere relations between Iran and Sudan. Their worry is in itself a proof for the importance of relations between our two countries. He added: Relations between Iran and Sudan can act as a suitable model for other Muslim countries.

Muhammad Amin Khalifah, the speaker of Sudan's parliament, in turn, expressed happiness in the presence of Mr. Nateq-Nuri in Sudan and described Iran and Sudan relations as very important. Moreover, he expressed hope that during this visit, an important step may be taken toward the further expansion and enhancement of friendly cooperation in economic, political, and cultural fields between the two countries. The speakers of the two countries' parliaments this afternoon began the first round of their talks and reviewed the different dimensions of cooperation between Iran and Sudan.

In this visit, Mr. Nateq-Nuri is accompanied by the construction jihad minister, a number of Majles deputies, and the head of the Chamber of Commerce.

Government Expels Ugandan Diplomat

EA1104162595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry today decided to expel (Geoffrey Sadina Kabushinga), the counsellor of the Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum, and requested him to leave the country within 24 hours, in response to Uganda's decision to expel Mr. Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, the minister plenipotentiary of the Sudanese Embassy in Uganda. This was announced at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today by ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, the first undersecretary of the foreign ministry.

Baridu expressed regret over the Ugandan Government's decision, which came after the declaration made by Sudan and Uganda recently in Tripoli on resolving the outstanding disagreements between them.

Uganda claimed that the decision to expel the Sudanese diplomat, Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, was taken as a result of the diplomat engaging in activities it described as hostile to Uganda.

Ambassador Baridu stressed that Uganda lacked seriousness on reaching a new and comprehensive settlement of outstanding issues between the two countries. He said there were some quarters seeking to wreck Libya's role in improving the relations between Sudan and Uganda. [passage omitted]

GCC Supreme Military Committee Meets in Riyadh

Saudi Prince Chairs Meeting

LD1104171395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, inspector general, and chairman of the Supreme Military Committee of the chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, opened the second session of the committee in Riyadh this morning.

The opening session was attended by Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, the GCC secretary general; Staff General Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, the chief of the [Saudi] General Staff; Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of Kuwait's General Staff; Staff Major General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, chief of Bahrain's General Staff; Staff Major General Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Khayarin, chief of Qatar's General Staff; Flight Lieutenant General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of the General Staff of the United Arab Emirates; and Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin Humayd al-Kalban, the Omani chief of staff. The session was also attended by Staff Major General Yusuf Muhammad al-Madani, chairman of the military commission; and members of the participating delegations.

GCC Head on Strengthening Military Ties

LD1104194295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 11 Apr—This afternoon the supreme military committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' chiefs of staff concluded its first working meeting of the second session held at the headquarters of the GCC secretariat in Riyadh.

Following the meeting His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, GCC secretary general, made a press statement in which he said:

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, inspector general, and chairman of the committee, has provided the necessary directive to the chiefs of staff and has reviewed with them the summit resolutions which aim to underpin mutual military cooperation among the GCC states.

He added that recommendations concerning the reinforcement of military cooperation were discussed during the first working meeting. Asked whether the subject of reinforcing the Peninsula Shield forces was discussed during the first working meeting, he said: "All matters aiming at reinforcing cooperation were discussed including the Peninsula Shield forces and the matters relating to the reinforcement of cooperation in defense."

Asked about the assistant secretary general for military affairs of the council, he said: He is currently present here and, God willing, he will assume his duties within a week. He is Major General Falih al-Shatti.

Kuwait To Assume GCC Military Post

LD0904050495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2102 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 April—Diplomatic sources here expect that the Kuwaiti nominee for the post of assistant secretary-general for military affairs at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Major-General Falih al-Shatti, will take up his post before the middle of this month.

Sources told the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, that Maj-Gen Falih al-Shatti, nominee for the newly-created post at the secretariat, will arrive in Riyadh next Tuesday [11 April] to participate in a two-day meeting of the member-states' chiefs of staff. [passage omitted]

Preliminary Talks Reported

LD0804204795 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 8, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general and Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and vice supreme commander of the armed forces held a meeting here on Saturday [8 April].

A number of issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting which was attended by General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum the crown prince of Dubayy and defense minister of the UAE, Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy premier, Vice Marshal Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the chief of staff, Rashid al-Nu'aymi, the foreign minister, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan the state minister for foreign affairs, Lieut General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, the minister of interior, Isa Khalfan, the UAE's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [name and title as received].

From the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the special adviser of custodian of the two holy mosques, Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Salih al-Ghufayli, the Saudi ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Lieut General Salih al-Muhayya, the commander of the land forces.

Prince Sultan, in a statement afterwards, said the talks were held amid an atmosphere of mutual understanding with the aim of reinforcement of the peace, stability and prosperity of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states.

Prince Sultan confirmed anew that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the leaders of the GCC states would spare no effort to dedicate the welfare march of the GCC. He termed the bilateral relations between the kingdom and the UAE as a model that could be traced by other brothers in [words indistinct] constant and constructive cooperation and coordination on various levels.

Prince Sultan made it clear that his current visit to the United Arab Emirates comes in the framework of the constant consultation between the officials of the two countries.

He expressed hope that the GCC leaders and officials would be able to realise the noble objectives of progress, prosperity and stability for which the GCC was established.

For his part, Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan told the Emirates news agency that he reviewed with Prince Sultan the current level of the bilateral ties between the two countries and ways to promote them to the highest possible levels.

Shaykh Khalifa expressed extreme satisfaction over the steady progress of the bilateral relations between the kingdom and the UAE under the wise leaderships of King Fahd and President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan who personally follow up the process of these relations. He said the talks also dealt with a number of regional and international matters and termed the view points of the two sides on them as identical.

Meanwhile, Prince Sultan graced a luncheon banquet given in his honor by the Saudi ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Salih al-Ghufayli here this afternoon.

The occasion was attended by Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Zayid, many ministers, Saudi and UAE's high-ranking civil and military officials and members of the delegation accompanying Prince Sultan.

Bahrain

Amir Welcomes Gulf States' Reaction to 'Events'

MM1204075995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Fu'ad Matar: "Amir of Bahrain Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Those Interested in Igniting Revolutions Are To Blame"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in a meeting at his home yesterday (Monday) [10 April] morning that the main issue was maintaining the country's security and stability. He repeated the word stability more than once at the meeting which was also attended by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad and was later joined by the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, and communications who, along with some other ministers, each within his own domain, are following up matters related to the situation in the country in the wake of the developments of the past weeks.

Shaykh 'Isa, who appeared very pleased when talking about the Gulf reaction to the developments, praised the Saudi position and said "we will never forget the Kingdom's support. King Fahd and his government did not fail Bahrain at all."

He said that this position is in natural harmony with the relations between the Kingdom and Bahrain. He added: "Relations were at their best between our forefathers and fathers, and will continue to be so, God willing."

The Amir of Bahrain also praised Kuwait's position and the visit to Bahrain a few days ago by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah. He welcomed any meeting between Gulf officials.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Shaykh 'Isa if he had any rebuke for any Arabs for not taking a stand in support of Bahrain in connection with the recent events. He replied: "We have no rebuke for anyone. What I reproach the Arabs for is their disunity." AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT, however, saw in his face some reproach for some Arabs and signs of anger about the confessions made by suspects during interrogation about an Iranian role in the acts of rioting and sabotage they carried out in Bahrain.

Shaykh 'Isa blamed the parties interested in igniting revolutions everywhere between Muslims. He said that the Algerian finance minister, who spent two days on an official visit to Bahrain, talked to him about the suffering in Algeria as a result of the violence and the infighting, and wished Bahrain stability and absence of violence.

In reply, Shaykh 'Isa said that he was deeply pained by what was taking place in Algeria and the endless hemorrhage. He assured the Algerian visitor that violence is not in the Bahrainis' nature. Commenting on what was happening in Algeria, he said: "Money can be compensated but how are these lost lives to be compensated?"

Reacting to what is being reported and broadcast by foreign media, Shaykh 'Isa said: "We regret the publication of these lies and their portrayal as facts."

He added: "Our gates are open to anyone wishing to come and verify the truth, but they, unfortunately, confuse the truth with falsehood and they exaggerate a lot. We are against lies and are sorry to see people telling lies."

He asked after Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and said that he wishes to visit Lebanon at an appropriate time. [passage omitted]

Minister Briefs Consultative Council on Riots

JN1104191095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 11 Apr (WAKH)—The Consultative Council held its regular weekly meeting of the second term of its third ordinary session this morning headed by Council Chairman Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan.

Following the meeting, Humaydan said the Council discussed agenda topics led by the message from Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Jubayr, chairman of the Consultative Council in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The Council then heard a statement by Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah on the riots. He said that based on the sound instructions of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, and in continuation of implementation of the contents of the recent speech he delivered at the Consultative Council on the riots, within the framework of the national concern over these regrettable incidents that are alien to our society, the Interior Ministry and its security organs have been, since the beginning of the incidents, eager to confront them with patience and self-restraint, which are features of the wise general policy of the state. The ministry and the security organs adopted measures and security arrangements in line with the size and nature of the incidents, and at the same time carried out their responsibilities within the framework of full respect for the law and norms in the country. The incidents were dealt with in accordance with our civilized Bahraini style that gives the right weight to issues through the sound understanding of citizens, their active support for the security efforts, and their positive cooperation with the general security forces.

These incidents will end thanks to the wise policy of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain and the protector of progress in the dear homeland, his wise government, the vigilance and alertness of the security organs, and unity of citizens and residences and their firm support. The Bahraini society and its integration, its national unity, harmony and unity of the various social groups, and the principle of one family are the best weapon for supporting the security efforts to entrench security and stability in the country.

The interior minister said: I would like to reassure you that the general security situation in the country is stable. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iranian Majles Speaker Visits National Assembly

Assails Israeli, Western Hostility

LD1104153595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA)—Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, said that the main focus of Iranian policy is to keep tension away from the region. He stressed that Iran does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

Speaking at a news conference today at Kuwait's National Assembly, Nateq-Nuri said his talks with Kuwaiti officials included the establishment of an investment company to be concerned with Iranian steel exports through the manufacture of Iranian raw material in the State of Kuwait, and then the re-export of them to other countries.

He said that the talks focused on the situation in the Gulf region "in view of it being a strategically sensitive region."

He accused Israel and some Western states of being behind the disinformation against his country, and said: Whenever a small problem occurs in Iran, these media of these states blow it out of all proportion.

Regarding Iran's position on the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Nateq-Nuri said: We are surprised that this issue is being raised... we are a member of organizations which combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons whenever possible.

He said: The problem here is that double standards are being applied... Iran is a member which has signed agreement in this context, and it has never had any intention to manufacture this kind of weapon. [sentence as received] We have opened our doors for inspections to confirm whether nuclear weapons are being manufactured in Iran.

In reply to a question on the Iranian reaction to U.S. threats to impose an economic embargo on his country, Nateq-Nuri said: These threats are not new. It has been the U.S. line since the Islamic revolution broke out in 1979.

The Iranian official said: It is lucky that the State of Kuwait has welcomed the proposal to establish an inter-Islamic parliamentary union which was made at the World Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Iranian delegation accompanying Nateq-Nuri includes the Housing Minister Abbas Akhundi; Mines and Energy Minister Hoseyn Mahluji; and a large number of Majles deputies.

Signs Agreement, Departs

LD1104193195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri ended his three-day visit to Kuwait today and left for Sudan after an official farewell ceremony. Our correspondent in Kuwait has a report on the Majles speaker's latest meetings in Kuwait.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri continued his meetings with Kuwaiti officials by attending the open session of the Kuwaiti national parliament this morning, where he met and conferred with a number of Kuwaiti deputies.

The speaker of Kuwait's parliament welcomed Mr. Nateq-Nuri and his entourage and praised the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Moreover, he expressed gratitude for the efforts made on the international stage by the Islamic Republic of Iran to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwaiti territory. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Our correspondent's report adds that at the end of the second round of talks between the Majles speaker and his Kuwaiti counterpart, a memorandum of understanding on parliamentary cooperation between the two countries was signed. In addition, Mr. Nateq-Nuri participated in a news and media conference and answered questions from Iranian and foreign reporters.

In reply to a question concerning the Iranian island of Abu Musa, the Majles speaker said: The enemies of the region are trying to stir up certain issues and create disunity among the countries of the region in order to further their illegitimate interests. For this reason, the regional countries must maintain their vigilance.

Parliament Views Reply to Amir, Moves on Shari'ah

LD1104165695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1311 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr—The National Assembly held an ordinary session today under the chairmanship of the speaker, Ahmad al-Sa'dun. A number of issues on the agenda were discussed during the session. The assembly discussed a draft report by the committee set up to formulate a reply to the amir's speech. The debate took up most of the session, which lasted five hours.

The debate dealt with a number of issues included in the draft report, such as moves toward the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah in Kuwait and the government's recent request for the Constitutional Court to interpret Article 71 of the Constitution. [providing for promulgation of laws by amiri decrees in the absence of the National Assembly; interpretation of this clause is currently a source of dispute between the executive and legislature]

Some members raised issues concerning the economy and security in the country, as well as other issues. The assembly postponed a debate on the suspension of AL-ANBA' newspaper and the strike staged by the Kuwait Oil Company workers recently. The postponement was at the government's request.

Joint French Naval Exercises Under Way

LD0904134395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1213 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 9 Apr—Twelve-day joint Kuwaiti-French naval exercises began today in Kuwaiti territorial waters under the codename "Pearl of the Gulf 95." A military source told KUNA that the aim of the exercise is to lift the fighting capability of the Kuwaiti naval forces by means of constantly taking part in maneuvers with fraternal and friendly forces, as well as enabling Kuwaiti soldiers to gain new skills in military sciences.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti naval forces will be using a number of "al-Sanbouk" missile boats, while the French will be taking part with the French Frigate "Commandant Bory 740F," as well as F-18 warplanes belonging to the Kuwaiti Air Force. It is worth noting that the Kuwaiti F-18's are taking part in the maneuvers "in the belief that three forces complement one another in cases of war."

The military source said that this exercise is using live ammunition at the Kuwaiti naval forces' target range situated between the islands of Umm al-Maradim and Qaru. The public are warned not to approach the area for the sake of their safety. The exercise is taking place in accordance with the February 1991 defense agreement between Kuwait and France.

Minister Leaves for Nigeria; To Review Relations

LD1104110495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr—Dr. Ahmad al-Ruba'i, minister of higher education, left the country today heading for Nigeria on a one-day official visit.

In a pre-departure statement to the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, the minister said he would deliver a message from Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah, amir of Kuwait, to the Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha on the distinguished relations between the two countries and on Nigeria's firm position in its capacity as a member of the UN Security Council.

He added that the relations between Nigeria and Kuwait were distinguished and that Nigeria's stand towards the occupation of Kuwait was clear and frank. The visit came to strengthen this stand, particularly that Nigeria was an effective member of the UN Security Council and to underline the common Kuwaiti-Nigerian stand on what was taking place in the Gulf region.

The minister was seen off by the Nigerian charge d'affaires Ismail Adam.

Qatar

Energy Minister Meets Iraqi Oil Minister

JN1104142495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 11 Apr (INA)—Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad has conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. This came when Shaykh

Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister received the oil minister in Doha yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed Iraq's return to the world oil market and the demand for OPEC oil and the stability of its prices in the future. The two sides also discussed the appropriate means of bilateral cooperation in several fields, particularly in the oil field.

Qatari Energy and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyah and the Iraqi ambassador in Doha attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, an official round of talks was held yesterday between the Iraqi delegation led by Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad, and the Qatari side led by Energy and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyah.

The Qatari energy and industry minister said that the talks dealt with issues related to energy, industry, and oil. He added: We discussed several issues of interest to both countries in these fields. He spoke about means of reactivating cooperation between the two countries, saying that prospects of future cooperation are open and will be discussed.

In a statement following the talks Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad said cooperation between the two sides is excellent. He stressed that Iraq has repaired 80 percent of the Iraqi oil installations which were destroyed during the aggression through its own efforts.

Saudi Arabia

Opposition Group Threatens U.S., UK Forces in Gulf

JN1204060395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Saudi organization calling itself the Arabian Peninsula Islamic Change Movement-the Jihad Wing [harakat al-taghyir al-islami, al-jinah al-jihadi, fi al-jazirah al-'arabiyah] has threatened to carry out military operations against the foreign forces stationed in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly the U.S. and British forces, and the influential members of the Al Sa'ud family.

In a statement published yesterday in the London-based AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, the organization says it is giving the foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula an ultimatum, they have until Wednesday, 28 April. After that date, the statement says, the organization will carry out legitimate operations against these forces.

The statement adds: The Royal Guard forces, the Military Police, and other similar units that protect the Al Sa'ud regime will also be a target. The statement denounces the Al Sa'ud regime, stressing that it is an infidel regime that opposes Islam, Muslims, preachers, and reformers and opened the doors of the Arabian Peninsula to colonialist forces.

United Arab Emirates

Mandela Visit Expected To Help Black-Owned Business

MB1104151395 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidential adviser Ahmed Kathrada says it is hoped that President Nelson Mandela's visit to the oil-rich Gulf states would help with the development of black-owned big business in South Africa. Mr. Kathrada told the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] in Abu Dhabi that there was concern that big business in South Africa was white-owned, while black businessmen were mainly retailers.

He described President Mandela's visit to the Arab states thus far as successful, although financial contributions to the Reconstruction and Development Program were not immediately forthcoming.

Yemen

Salih Visits Naval College, al-Hudaydah Base

JN1104062995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the Naval College today as part of his inspection visit of the al-Hudaydah Governorate.

He was received by the brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers. The brother president was briefed on their conditions and on the progress of studies and training at the college.

Addressing them, the brother president leader stressed the importance of increasing efforts in training and rehabilitation at the college as well as promoting scientific and military knowledge in line with the efforts designed to reconstruct and reorganize the Armed Forces.

The president pointed to the current efforts designed to enhance the Armed Forces' capabilities, improve the standards of their personnel, and pay attention to their rehabilitation and training in a way that will meet the needs of reconstruction and enable them to constantly and efficiently carry out their national duties.

The president also lauded the role of our Armed Forces in entrenching the pillars of the revolution, championing unity, and confronting the conspiracy of secession. He explained that our Armed Forces are the strike force in the hands of the people against the enemies, traitors, and agents who target the country's security, economy, and stability.

He said: In this phase when our people are waging the battle of economic challenge and comprehensive reform, the Armed Forces will be an effective tool in the process of developmental contribution, in the fight against smuggling, and in firmly striking at all those who plot against the national economy.

The president urged the brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers to enjoy further awareness and vigilance in confronting all challenges. He also urged them to be up to the level of expectations and an example of good national conduct and performance of duty. He wished them further success.

The brother president also visited the naval base in al-Hudaydah this morning. He was received by the officials at the base. The brother president and those accompanying him boarded a yacht on a naval tour during which he inspected the progress of work at the base. He urged the officials and workers at the base to increase efforts, pay attention to constant maintenance, and promote performance in a way that will translate the objectives of reconstruction.

The president was accompanied during his visit by brother Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, minister of transportation; 'Abd-al-Rahman Ba-Fadl, minister of fish resources; Brigadier General 'Abdallah Husayn al- Bashiri, secretary general of the presidency; Muhammad (al-Yadumi), secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; and a number of other officials.

Opposition Figure on Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC0704193095 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Apr 95 pp 27-29

[Interview with Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid, member of the National Opposition Front, by Bassam 'Afifi in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Afifi] Do you regard yourself as part of the Yemeni opposition at home?

[Bin-Farid] We do not believe in a Yemeni opposition abroad, only at home. While some political figures have been compelled by circumstances to live outside the homeland, this does not mean they are carrying out their opposition from abroad. Their opposition is a reflection of the opposition inside the country.

['Afifi] Does this mean you have channels of communication with the opposition at home?

[Bin-Farid] I wish to confirm a basic fact. Our people and country are passing through a very difficult stage. There is a lack of security and there is crushing economic hardship. We know that such circumstances can produce a totalitarian rather than a democratic government. The General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping have total control over the country. There is only a small margin of democratic opposition. We have contacts with various sections of the public and various influential opposition factions inside Yemen. We wish to strengthen these contacts and bolster the opposition's role soon. [passage omitted]

['Afifi] What is your attitude to Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders, particularly those living abroad?

[Bin-Farid] The YSP is passing through a crisis and now has several different wings. One wing is represented by the new secretary general, 'Ali Salih Muqbil, another is represented by the so-called Corrective Committee, a third is called the Fattah Group. We are dealing with the fourth wing, which is led by [former YSP Secretary General] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, brother Salim Salih, brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and other figures with whom we allied ourselves during the war. This is the YSP with which we are now cooperating. But we believe it is necessary and inevitable for all patriotic forces and all opposition factions to cooperate. We know the Sanaa regime believes its task is to try to fragment the various opposition parties by encouraging more than one stream to appear inside every party. This is why we extend our hand to everyone who wishes to cooperate and establish bridges of amity and sincerity with us. In particular we are cooperating with the wing with which we were allied during the war. This does not prevent us from extending our hand to others.

['Afifi] Do you have any links with leaders at home?

[Bin-Farid] We do not want to cause any problems for those who live inside Yemen, because, as I have already noted, the current regime is hegemonic, authoritarian, and makes extensive use of physical and moral terrorism. The regime bars many newspapers from mentioning the National Opposition Front [MAWJ]. Hence we cannot speak openly about our cooperation with opposition forces at home, although we are extending bridges to all patriotic Yemeni forces. These bridges are kept open. We hope that our relations with these forces will become stronger.

['Afifi] What is your assessment of the Yemeni-Saudi Memorandum of Understanding?

[Bin-Farid] We strongly believe that Yemen cannot live in isolation from its peninsular neighbors, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We firmly believe that our country and Saudi Arabia should establish strategic, not merely tactical, relations based on neighborliness, religion, kinship, and, above all, mutual interests. Hence firm, stable, and growing relations are the rule. Regrettably, our ruling regime has involved Yemen in unjustified enmity with the Kingdom as a result of the position it adopted during the Gulf war. Our people are still paying the price for this political position. As regards the Yemeni-Saudi Memorandum of Understanding, we advocate permanent bilateral relations based on mutual understanding and cooperation. We doubt the current

Yemeni regime's credibility and its ability to fulfill the Yemeni people's hopes and interests. We declare that the Sanaa regime and the solutions it is proposing do not represent the people. We have issued a statement to this effect. We repeat that now: How can a regime that is unable to reconcile itself with its own public carry out a reconciliation with its neighbors? The Sanaa regime's credibility and the reliability of its commitments must be based on popular support for its decisions. The primary criterion would be to carry out a national reconciliation in Yemen. A second step would be to assess our relations with our Arab brothers and neighbors. We favor close relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia based on dialogue and mutual understanding.

['Afifi] You are still waging your battle on the media level. Do you have any plans to develop your means?

[Bin-Farid] We believe Yemen has bled enough and paid a high price. We must safeguard what remains. Consequently, the broad lines of MAWJ are to convince the regime in Sanaa to find a solution to the grave crisis through which our country is passing. We believe that opposition representatives abroad can convey the voice of our people and the tragic realities in Yemen. We are also urging the various forces inside the homeland to voice their rejection of the ongoing events in Yemen and the unjust war that broke out. We are doing all this through peaceful means. Within this context, we are pursuing the course of political statements through audio and video cassettes.

Once the opposition movement is more organized we will embark on staging demonstrations and sit-ins preparatory to declaring civil disobedience. We believe peaceful means could eventually make the voice of our people reach the ruling authority in Sanaa. This would force the authority to reach an accord. Peaceful means are our basic principle at this stage. We hope we will never be compelled to use force, because we are against this course. [passage omitted]

['Afifi] What is the extent of your relations with the United States and Britain?

[Bin-Farid] We want to maintain good relations with the various Arab and foreign powers that can influence our cause. We endeavor to ensure that our voice is heard by anyone who can influence the course of the Yemeni problem. We fully realize that in view of its status in the new world, the United States can greatly influence our cause. We hope the United States will play a positive role in solving the Yemeni problem. We also know that the United States is well aware that the ongoing events in Yemen are incompatible with the principles of democracy, human rights, and the state of order and law. The law of the jungle prevails in Yemen. The symbols of the state who run this country are responsible for the chaos and lack of security by encouraging tribal vendettas and looting. Furthermore, democracy exists in Yemen only for the service of the ruling party, the People's Congress Party, and the Reform Grouping. [passage omitted]

As for Britain, we have information and political activities there. The British position toward and ties with the ruling regime in Sanaa are no different from those of the United States. But in view of its democratic system and proximity to our region, our information and political activities are good. We appreciate this British attitude.

As for our relations with the United States, we have so far been trying to open doors and construct bridges with either the U.S. Government or U.S. bodies, such as Congress, research centers, and universities, to make them hear our voice and make them understand what is really happening in our country. We hope we will succeed in this regard. [passage omitted]

['Afifi] Needless to say, Yemen is passing through difficult economic conditions. Are you trying to exploit this in your struggle against the authority? And how?

[Bin-Farid] I will not be exaggerating if I say that never in the history of Yemen have the Yemeni people faced such harsh and difficult conditions. The economic problem is extremely complicated and is strangling both the people and land. It is unprecedented for Yemenis to search for food in garbage cans. This reflects the depth of the tragedy. We would not be wrong to say that there is famine in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Radio Outlines Ekeus Report to Security Council

JN1104182995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Rolf Ekeus delivered a copy of his expected report to Czech Ambassador Karel Kovanda, president of the UN Security Council [UNSC], early today, Baghdad time.

Following his meeting with the UNSC president, Ekeus refused to reveal the contents of the report to journalists, and told them: We are trying to leave the major points in the report to the UNSC members. He said that he does not want to give them to the press. However, the U.S. and British press, the VOA, and the BBC have obtained the text of the report. In their news about the report, they ignored the many positive aspects about Iraq's implementation of the provisions of Section C of UNSC Resolution 687. They have also completely ignored Ekeus' statements on Iraq's cooperation and his commission's praise of this cooperation.

In his report, Ekeus describes this cooperation as full. He says that he has also received assurances and guarantees from the highest echelons in Baghdad that Iraq will continue its cooperation with the UN Special Commission.

The Western news media which are hostile to Iraq, focused on one aspect of the report; namely, the issue of the lack of information about the Iraqi biological program.

Ekeus' report refers to the monitoring system which he installed in Iraq in accordance with Resolution 715. He says that the system is proceeding well, that there are no problems with its operation, and that Iraq is fully cooperating with him in this regard.

In his report, Ekeus reviews the major aspects of the implementation of the provisions of Resolution 687. He expresses the belief that what has been implemented in dismantling the long-range missiles, the chemical weapons, and the nuclear program was very satisfactory.

Regarding the biological research program, the report, as expected, refers to the issue of the so-called agricultural agents. These are materials of which Iraq imported 39 tonnes in 1988 to be distributed to all hospitals and medical laboratories in both the public and private sectors, as Ekeus says in his report. The report adds that the UN Special Commission, led by Ekeus, has determined the fate of 22 tonnes and that it still wants to determine the fate of the remaining 17 tonnes. The report says that if Ekeus does not do so, he will be afraid that Iraq probably used them to manufacture biological weapons.

In his report, Ekeus speaks about Iraq's response to this issue, saying: The Iraqis have emphasized to us that what they had until 1990 was a small research program, which they stopped that year.

In his report, Ekeus admits that the agricultural agents have an expiry date of 1993, and that these materials should be used quickly once the containers they are in are opened, otherwise they become useless.

In his report on the future monitoring of the production of biological weapons under Resolution 715, Rolf Ekeus says that the Special Commission has collected the basic data on all the possible locations where this weapon can be produced, and that the monitoring of these locations is being carried out regularly.

In his report, Ekeus says that Iraq explained to him that many hospitals in the southern and northern governorates had been ransacked or destroyed by the elements of treason and treachery which are linked to the Iranian regime in the wake of the 1991 cease-fire. But, in spite of this he wants to ascertain that the 17,000 tonnes are part of the quantities which were destroyed or stolen during the chapter of treason and treachery and had not been used for the production of biological weapons.

This is the most important point in Rolf Ekeus' report and which the U.S. and British radio stations failed to mention while they focused on and magnified the negative aspects. Official sources in Baghdad had expected such action.

In New York, the UN Security Council is preparing to discuss Ekeus' report tomorrow, Tuesday. The French, Russian, Chinese, Indonesian, Italian, and Nigerian delegations will state their views on this report. The Iraqi delegation, under Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, will reply to the remarks Mr. Ekeus raises in his report.

INA has learned that the Iraqi reply will tackle the issue in a scientific, realistic, and clear manner, and will emphasize that Iraq will continue to cooperate with the Special Commission to foil the methods and tactics of the U.S. administration and its lackey, the British Government, which seek to blow things out of proportion and mislead the UN Security Council.

In Vienna, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] ridiculed the claims made by the British SUNDAY TIMES which is owned by the Zionist lobby in London, and which recently reported that Iraq has secretly resumed its nuclear program. The paper also reported that an Iraqi scientist was kidnapped in Athens, Greece, last week, and that Iraq has summoned its ambassador to Greece for fear the Greek authorities will interrogate him.

Commenting on this report, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that the contents of the report are mere fabrications, as the Iraqi ambassador is still in Athens and has not been summoned. Also, the Greek police do not have on their records the death or kidnapping of any Iraqis in Athens, and that the police did not interrogate anyone.

As for the Vienna IAEA spokesman, he said that the IAEA has a strict monitoring system in Iraq and has not noted any violation by the Iraqi side of the provisions of Resolution 687 or that it has resumed the Iraqi nuclear program.

The IAEA spokesman added: We have read the SUNDAY TIMES report, but do not give it any importance.

Foreign Ministry Refutes UN Official's 'Nonsense'

JN1104153995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraq has refuted British UN Ambassador David Hannay's claims that the U.S.-British draft resolution to amend Resolutions 706 and 712 does not threaten Iraq's unity in any way. Iraq said that these are premeditated claims aimed at misleading public opinion.

In a statement to INA today, a Foreign Ministry source said: It is clear that these claims conflict with the real state of affairs and with the daily U.S.-British violation of Iraq's sovereignty and airspace in the two no-fly-zones in southern and northern Iraq, and the dropping of flares by their aircraft, breaking the sound barrier, and terrifying peaceful citizens. This is in addition to the violations of Iraq's territorial waters by U.S. warships and cruisers, and the detention of Iraqi ships in these waters. This is in addition to direct and premeditated contribution to supporting the armed rebellion in northern Iraq, which has created a state of chaos and caused the suffering of our Kurdish people.

The source noted: Since the end of the 30-state military aggression against Iraq, the Foreign Ministry has been documenting all these violations and reporting them one after the other to the United Nations and the Arab League.

The source added: He who claims that he respects Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty must stop these violations which contravene the international law, its principles, and the UN Charter.

Referring to the nonsense of the British ambassador, his rude call for condemning Iraq if it rejects the U.S. draft resolution, and his claim that the Iraqi Government does not seriously take care of its people's needs, the source said: Our reply to this clown is that the Iraqi people are fully aware of those who conspire against their interests. They also know full well that Britain, which is suffering the complex of its black history in the world in general and in Iraq in particular, has turned from an empire on which the sun never sets into a humiliated satellite of the U.S. colonialism in the hope of obtaining some ill-gotten gains and U.S. leftovers.

The source added that the steadfast and heroic Iraqi people know well who showered them with bombs, missiles, and all banned weapons in early 1991, as well as the meanness and venom of Britain's colonialist rulers.

The source added: Thus, how can the representative of a state that contributed to dropping 107,000 tonnes of explosives claim that he is concerned about the Iraqi people's needs, knowing that he himself, being a member of the Sanctions Committee, is still objecting to Iraq's importation of basic humanitarian needs, including pencils and hospital cotton wool, for the Iraqi people. Hannay still frequently objects to some materials needed for civilian purposes, which are very necessary for the manufacture of medicines, on the pretext that they will contribute to regaining Iraq's economic infrastructure, which has been rebuilt by the hands of the mujahidin of our noble Iraqi people.

The source pointed out that our people also know well the ones who harbor hostility toward them, and who worked frenziedly to impose the unfair blockade on them.

The source asserted that the major objective of the U.S. draft resolution is to divert the attention of the Security Council member states, the UN member states, and the world public opinion from the legitimate demand to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 to another direction. The draft resolution also tries to revive the stipulations and terms of both Resolution 706 and the ill-reputed Resolution 712, both of which are no longer valid. Moreover, it tries to obstruct the measures designed to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The source stressed that contrary to the British ambassador's allegations, this is not a humanitarian draft resolution; rather, it is a maneuver that has exposed objectives. He said: They are carrying out this maneuver after they realized that Iraq has fulfilled all its substantive commitments in accordance with Security Council Resolution 687 and after the Security Council has become duty bound to fulfill its own commitments, particularly implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Statements 'Impudent, Arrogant'

JN1204103795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has described as impudent and arrogant the statements made by David Hannay, Britain's permanent envoy to the United Nations, on the U.S.-British plan that Iraq has rejected several times before.

In an editorial entitled "Hannay, Hypocrisy and Lies," AL-'IRAQ says: Hannay, who says his government is touched by the Iraqis' condition under the embargo, knows full well that Iraq has rejected and will continue to reject the plan. This is because the Iraqis refuse to turn into a group of refugees, waiting for the United Nations to distribute the crumbs of food bought by their own money for oil exported under unfair conditions, which we refused and will refuse to even discuss.

The paper says: David Hannay and his ilk must read history, the history of their wicked colonialist policy, and draw the necessary lessons before making feeble and funny statements about concern for other people, their fate, suffering, and agony. Such statements are certainly the product of their governments' aggression, conspiracy, and schemes over many centuries.

Assembly Speaker 'Strongly' Opposes Turkish Moves

JN1104133195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
11 Apr 95 p 20

[Interview with Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly by 'Urayb al-Rantawi "on the plane from Casablanca to Amman following the conclusion of the sixth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union;" date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Rantawi] Let us put aside the conference and move to a hot and important issue facing Iraq now, that is the large-scale Turkish operation in northern Iraq. How do you react to this operation?

[Salih] According to its declared objective, the Turkish operation in northern Iraq is not an aggression against Iraq or an attempt to divide Iraq. The declared objective is to strike at what they call Kurds who carry out acts of sabotage in the southern and southeastern parts of Turkey. I believe this situation is the fault of the Turkish officials themselves. Why? Because they agreed to have the so-called Hammer Force in the southern part of their country on the borders with us. The declared objective of this force is to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq. In fact this force came to protect the saboteurs and their leaders, who were originally stationed outside Iraq, but were brought in after the Gulf events to create problems and disorder and were given large-scale military support by the Americans and the British to weaken Iraq. The absence of Iraq's authority and military force in this area made it easier for the various groups to establish a foothold there and to exercise various activities. I have, since 1993, been warning the Turks against the dangers of such conduct and I asked them not to renew the mandate of the Hammer Force because its presence there will spread troubles to their own areas.

As regards our position on the entry of these forces, we have stated very clearly that we strongly oppose it because such an act constitutes an encroachment on our territory and sovereignty. It was also natural for us to demand a swift withdrawal. Our good ties with Turkey notwithstanding, such acts cannot be permitted. If there were certain problems, then we may agree to a solution to such problems. The return of the central government to northern Iraq and the deployment of Iraqi Army and Iraqi internal security forces there is the ideal solution. Then there will be no place for sabotage neither inside Turkish territory nor inside Iraqi territory. We ask our Turkish friends to understand this issue correctly, and to deal with it in a correct way.

[Al-Rantawi] There are claims of Iraqi-Turkish coordination concerning the military operation. Such a claim is based on the two parties' mutual interest to tame the Kurdish enclave which is rebelling against the central governments in both Baghdad and Ankara. What is your reaction to this?

[Salih] First of all, I do not have information on this issue and I do not think there was coordination in advance in that regard. Yes, there was coordination before the Gulf events. There was coordination between us and Turkey when the central government had a presence on the Turkish-Iraqi borders. We had a security agreement according to which Iraq was entitled to advance to a depth of five km inside the Turkish territory to pursue the outlaw elements and Turkey was entitled to advance to a depth of five km inside Iraqi territory to pursue saboteurs who carry out acts of sabotage inside the Turkish territory and take refuge, sometimes, in our territory. True, such an agreement exists but it is not operative now because we are not present in the northern region due to, as I have told you, the Hammer Force.

[Al-Rantawi] If there was no coordination, was Baghdad informed of what is going on now in northern Iraq?

[Salih] I do not know. I have no information.

[Al-Rantawi] Let us move on to another subject related to the Kurdish question. Much has been written recently about a change in Kurdish tactics toward the central government. The Kurds have carried out large-scale operations from the north to the south of the 36th Parallel, and the attacks were reportedly aimed against Karkuk, as Turkey said on more than one occasion. What do you know about this issue? Who stands behind the Kurds in their attempt to expand the northern pocket?

[Salih] We know that the armed groups and the Kurdish sabotage groups were brought in from outside the border, as I told you. They were given arms and unlimited support from the United States and Britain. The aim was to create disturbances in northern Iraq, beginning with the north and then extending to other areas. It is normal for the United States to instigate these groups when it wants to make a move to harm Iraq.

Now the United States needs such a move. Why, because the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is now a must and the United States does not want this. Therefore it is looking for pretexts to prolong the blockade. Sometimes it speaks about human rights and at other times says that Iraq has used military force against this or that party. That's why it made these parties move in the hope that Iraq will send its forces to the region. Then they could claim that Iraq has violated Resolution 688, or this or that resolution. The United States would then say: From this premise, we call for not applying Paragraph 22 and for not lifting the embargo on Iraq.

Of course, we knew this. That's why the Iraqi Army acted only in self-defense in the area where the saboteurs carried out military activities. We managed to successfully reply and to foil this maneuver. We believe we succeeded brilliantly in this endeavor.

[Al-Rantawi] Does this means the United States has changed its policy on Iraq or does it still abide by its declared stand of not fragmenting Iraqi unity and sovereignty over all its national soil?

[Salih] This is up to the United States itself. I cannot say what the United States wants. However, on the basis of analysis, we are convinced that the United States seeks to weaken Iraq by every means. This is its objective. To do this, it adopts a specific stand and formula at every stage. Of course, if it continues with this policy, disturbances will spread throughout the entire region and will bring about a state of anxiety and instability not only in Iraq but in all the region. Proof of this is what is taking place in Turkey. What prevents the same thing from taking place in Iran or in other parts of the region? Those who play with fire should expect to be burned one of these days.

[Al-Rantawi] Press reports say that Iran could undertake a move similar to that of Turkey, particularly on the basis of recent disturbances in the governorates in southern Iraq. Is this probable?

[Salih] I do not believe Iran has an interest in doing such a thing because there are no sabotage activities within Iran from across the southern Iraqi borders. So long as there is no such activity, what excuse will it give? If Iranian forces attack Iraq, this will be viewed as an act of aggression, a military act of aggression that completely differs from what is currently taking place with Turkey. In this case, the reply will be a violent one, and we are capable of this.

There is another reason. In the area you are speaking about, the Iraqi authority is there, the Iraqi administration, too, as well as the Iraqi Army. The entire Iraqi people are behind their central government and are armed and can reply to any hostile activities that could take place in this area. What they speak about is a figment of their imagination, and not reality. Those who speak of disturbances and riots in the south should come to the area to see for themselves. They will see that the situation in al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, and al-Kut is no different than the situation in Baghdad, al-Ramadi, Mosul, Karkuk, Karbala', al-Najaf, and al-Nasiriyah. They will find that the situation is stable and secure and that the citizens complain only from the impact of the unjust embargo which the United States insists on perpetuating, assisted in this by some Gulf Arabs. This is our only problem.

[Al-Rantawi] Rolf Ekeus yesterday submitted his semiannual report to the Security Council at a critical time for the sanctions imposed against Iraq. What are your expectations?

[Salih] If Ekeus is objective, fair, and neutral, then we expect his report to be positive and to contain all facts; namely, that Iraq has implemented, or completed the implementation of, all relevant resolutions, especially Resolution 687. If, however, Ekeus, loses his objectivity, fairness, and impartiality, and submits to pressures from the United States and the Gulf nations, then his report will include negative points. From an objective view, I expect the report to contain many facts because these are clear and cannot be concealed. This is because we will say that we did this and that by way of implementing this and that paragraph, and we have documents to prove this.

[Al-Rantawi] In light of Ekeus's report and the Russian-French-Chinese initiatives on the one hand and the declared U.S.-British position on the other, when do you expect the blockade to be lifted?

[Salih] I do not expect the blockade to be lifted this month. This is because even if Ekeus submits a positive report, they will procrastinate and create excuses. My evidence is that they have drawn up a very negative plan in advance. I am talking about the U.S.-British plan, which we rejected as soon as we learned about it. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf rejected the plan. We expect support for us and for our friends in the next stage, but this will not lead to lifting the blockade in April. However, if the Security Council, Ekeus, and the international community are objective and honest, then they will implement Paragraph 22 and lift the Iraq blockade. Even if they procrastinate, the truth shall eventually prevail.

[Al-Rantawi] Do you think that the U.S. blockade imposed on Iraq will end by the end of 1995?

[Salih] We hope this will be the case. All facts show that this should be the case. But if the hard-line approach continues, then we will consider taking appropriate measures and formulas to counter this position. Our friends will put pressure on the intransigent party. At that point, I think, the friends of Iraq who have pushed for lifting the blockade will have the right to weasel out of the blockade because they will have ascertained that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations. So why should the blockade continue? Should it continue because this or that country wants it to continue? This is not what the Security Council resolutions say, and this is not acceptable in international relations. The resolutions of the Security Council must be honored not only by Iraq, but also by the Security Council.

[Al-Rantawi] For how much longer can Iraq cope with the blockade?

[Salih] I cannot tell you exactly, since all nations that face challenges adapt to the circumstances and resist pressures. In the case of the Iraqi people, it is common knowledge that they have faced many challenges, including war, invasion, blockade, and attempts at annihilation throughout their history. However, they have survived. They will not perish because of the blockade. In spite of this, the blockade has had a heavy toll on the Iraqi people. The blockade contradicts the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, since the simplest human right that should be guaranteed by the international community—which is represented by the United Nations—is the right to life. How can we guarantee this right while food and many other necessities are not available. Therefore, the Security Council, the United Nations, and the international community should take this into consideration and should implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

[Al-Rantawi] What about the efforts to realize Arab reconciliation?

[Salih] We considered the current meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union held in Rabat a step in this direction. Therefore, as I said at the beginning of my talk, we responded enthusiastically and we were prepared to render this mission successful. Even when I expressed reservation on the paragraph that concerns us, I said that we would be positive and cooperate with the presidency of the conference. I emphasized that we accept Paragraph 7 of the final communique which asks the presidency of the Arab Parliamentary Union to cooperate with a number of Arab parliamentarians to carry out reconciliation efforts and restore Arab solidarity, or in other words to breathe life into Arab solidarity. Without this solidarity, we will remain weak and our enemy will continue to exploit our weakness to realize its evil objectives.

[Al-Rantawi] There has been much talk concerning Iraq's position on the current peace process on various Arab tracks, and the need for Iraq to participate in multilateral negotiations and the regional arrangements currently under way in the region. Will you explain to us your position?

[Salih] We in Iraq have well-known concerns and priorities. We have been exposed to a comprehensive and very dangerous aggression that destroyed almost all of our country. We have been besieged for five years, and this siege is a tight and thorough one. Our efforts now and on all levels concentrate on reconstruction. At the same time we work with all means to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the siege.

[Al-Rantawi] Don't you think that Iraq's involvement in the Arab-Israeli peace process may shorten the way for lifting the siege and ending the sanctions.

[Salih] We do not have a problem with being a party in the peace process. If there is an Arab decision adopted by an Arab summit, we will be committed to such a decision, but we are not concerned with getting involved in the process unilaterally now, because as I said, our concern is how to end the suffering of our Iraqi people.

[Al-Rantawi] A final question, a coup attempt by al-Samarra'i [Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former Iraqi intelligence chief who joined the Iraqi opposition] has been recently reported by the press and media. Was that true?

[Salih] Nothing has taken place. I explained to you all that happened. After the United States was embarrassed and found itself in a difficult position concerning the lifting of the siege, it tried to fabricate a problem. I told you that the United States instructed some Kurds, and not all of them, to act. Of course this has taken place in coordination with that person [al-Samarra'i]. It seems that there was coordination between the United States and Kurdish groups to carry out this sabotage operation which ended in the way it ended. These groups felt as if they were banging their heads against a mountain. After several attempts, they concluded that it was impossible to realize anything. They backed off and stopped their activities. Perhaps the coordination between this person and some leaders of the saboteurs in the north under U.S. auspices was called a coup attempt. No large or small coup attempt has taken place in Iraq.

[Al-Rantawi] But al-Samarra'i declared, in the name of the opposition, that he would be in Baghdad within three months, heading the regime there. Do you take his threats seriously?

[Salih] He can say whatever he wants, and I ask: Can the one who loves his homeland which was harmed by the United States, be given strength by the United States to stand against his homeland and people? Who will stand by this agent and spy? How can he expect that a genuine, self-respecting nationalist Iraqi will cooperate with him in any task—neither a coup, nor even in obtaining a book or a pen? He will be beaten with shoes if he tries to contact any nationalist Iraqi. All Iraqis know who are the nationalists and who are the traitors. They know those who work for their homeland and people and those who are running behind the dollars to spend on their whims and lusts.

Barzani 'Not At All Pleased' With Turkish Moves

TA1104141995 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 1945 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Interview with Kurdish Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani by correspondent Mehmet Ali Birand in Salah-al-Din; date not given; from the "32d Day" program—recorded in English with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birand] What was your reaction when you first heard of the Turkish military intervention?

[Barzani] I would like to state that we are not at all pleased about the operation. Many mistakes are being made. Human beings are dying. We are greatly disturbed about the situation. Certain tensions and incidents are inevitably emerging. Tension can escalate at any moment. For example, the incident in connection with the Turkish Red Crescent truck in Dahuk saddened me very much. I extend my condolences to those who were killed in the incident. We expect the Turkish soldiers to treat the villagers well.

[Birand] Did Turkey forewarn you about the intervention?

[Barzani] No, we were not informed. Our own people sent us a message when your armored units arrived near Zakho. This is how we were informed.

[Birand] What was the message?

[Barzani] We are facing Turkish tanks and armored vehicles. What should we do? I asked them not to respond immediately and not to intervene in any way. I also asked them to inform us on where the Turkish units are going and what they are doing. In short, I said: Do not touch. In fact, what could we have done? We were facing a vast Army.

[Birand] It was said that there were 2,800 PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] militants in the region before the operation. Most of them, however, disappeared later. Surely, you have intelligence information. Do you know where they went?

[Barzani] I am certain that the PKK had prior information about the operation, or at least felt it. Moreover, they must have adopted the necessary measures and dispersed immediately because they are not a large military force. Some of them crossed into Turkey, and others dispersed into Syria, Iran, and our areas here. This is the nature of a guerrilla force; it is not like a regular Army.

[Birand] You say that the PKK understood what was happening? Did you not?

[Barzani] Naturally, we felt, and we observed. We were guessing that something would happen. It was clear. A huge Army was deployed. The only thing we did not know was the date of the operation.

[Birand] How come the PKK was able to reenter these regions?

[Barzani] In 1992, the PKK had established camps in the same region, and it was disturbing our people. As a result of this, we launched an operation together with the Turkish Armed Forces. As it happened, the PKK left the area and retreated to the Zeli camp in the south. It also signed an agreement with us and pledged not to establish a camp in the region again. However, our own internal struggle began some time later. When we engaged Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] in a war, we pulled our forces near the border further south. Under these circumstances, the PKK returned to settle in the region despite its promise. The PKK was able to easily settle here as there are no villages or people in the area.

[Birand] Given the current situation, do you not think that the intervention of the Turkish Government in the camps is justified?

[Barzani] We cannot tell Turkey that it does not have the right to defend itself, because we are unable to control the PKK that settled in that region. We are not that powerful.

[Birand] What should we do now? You are unable to control the area; the PKK establishes its bases here and undertakes actions against Turkey; and then Turkey intervenes. In other words, either you will bar the PKK from your territory, or Turkey will intervene every time. There is no other alternative.

[Barzani] There is an alternative. It consists of allowing the peshmergas back into the vacated villages along the border. If Turkey rebuilds these villages, thousands of grateful people will settle in these areas. These people will not allow the PKK to enter these areas in order to protect their own interests.

[Birand] All the same, will it not be effective to establish military outposts to be manned jointly by peshmergas and Turkish soldiers along the border? What is your reaction to the idea of building such police stations?

[Barzani] In my opinion, everyone should remain inside their borders—Turks inside their borders and peshmergas inside their own—and they should not intermingle.

[Birand] Really, do you not think that observation lookouts could be effective?

[Barzani] Listen, I have been involved in guerrilla warfare since I was 16. I know this better than anyone else. A regular Army cannot overcome the guerrilla. It can slow down the guerrilla, but it cannot stop it altogether. It can chase off the guerrillas, but they will return after some time. Therefore, I do not regard the establishment of outposts as a solution. You can make the guerrillas' work more difficult, but you cannot stop it altogether.

[Birand] Can you fight the PKK, or are you trying to say that you cannot fight the PKK?

[Barzani] We can fight anyone who harms us, regardless of who they are. In 1992, the PKK was harming our villages, and we fought them. Why should we fight them if they do not harm our villages?

[Birand] You cooperated with the Turkish Army in 1992, but this cooperation failed. Why?

[Barzani] Because Turkey did not keep its promises. According to the agreement we concluded, Turkey was supposed to extend aid to the villages along the border, to give them equipment, to support their rehabilitation, and to build roads. None of this was realized.

Talabani on Turkish Operation, Possible Cooperation

TA1104155295 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 1945 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Video report by Mehmet Ali Birand; italicized passages recorded, in English with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, is very important for Turkey. Ankara's position will be stronger if Talabani joins in the cooperation agreement to be concluded with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party. Moreover, the rumors that Talabani has contacts with the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] from time to time makes this cooperation even more important. Talabani opened his doors to the "32d Day" program in al-Sulaymaniyah and replied to questions by (Banu Abar). Talabani reacted strongly especially to the PKK issue:

No one can say such a thing. The Turkish state is well aware of the fact that I am not a PKK supporter. How can such a thing be possible? Our policy is very clear. We want the borders with Turkey to be secure, and we will provide the necessary support for a solid, democratic, stable, and strong Turkey. That is all. There is no question of our interfering in Turkey's internal affairs.

Talabani does not hide that he is ready to cooperate with Turkey. He is following the developments indirectly because he is far from the theater of operations. His reaction to the operation is one of hurt:

We would have preferred Turkey to have undertaken this operation in cooperation and coordination with us. It would have been more beneficial for all of us. Furthermore, the West would not have reacted so harshly, and the operation would not have cost so much.

Talabani declared that his failure to meet with the Turkish delegation stems entirely from physical difficulties and that he will meet with Turkish officials soon. Before stating his view concerning the establishment of cooperation and a security belt on the Turkish-Iraqi border, Talabani said:

Why is Turkey not establishing such a security belt inside its territory? Establishing such a security belt within its borders would be more beneficial regarding both international prestige and national interests. Turkey can thus control the passages from Iraq and the activities of the PKK. Let me ask you the following: Is Tunceli in Iraqi territory? No, it is not. What is the PKK doing there? In other words, this is not the issue.

Talabani and his staff are closely following all the developments and news concerning Turkey, and this news is now being disseminated in Kurdish. As far as Talabani's expectations from Turkey are concerned, these far exceed Turkey's expectations from him.

We have high expectations from Turkey. Above all, Turkey must understand our position. We want Turkey to know that the Iraqi Kurds want only friendship and brotherhood, and we expect Turkey to help and support us.

Envoy: Turkey Encouraging Kurdish Talks With Baghdad

JN1204071495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Sadi Jalshlar [name as transliterated], Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad, has said that Turkey does not support the Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq but is encouraging them to start a dialogue with the central government in Baghdad to find a comprehensive solution.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the charge d'affaires said his country has stressed to these Kurds that it is futile to follow the U.S. and British solutions.

He said that his country has informed the U.S., the British, and the French that a comprehensive and quick solution must be found to the situation in northern Iraq for the benefit of the regional states and in order to put an end to the current situation which now threatens Turkey's national security, as well as regional security.

He said that Turkey is currently raising many questions regarding the presence of the so-called Hammer Force at the Turkish base in Incirlik. He noted that the current circumstances are different from those that existed four years ago.

The Turkish charge d'affaires declined to answer a question on the double standards Turkey displays regarding the Iraqi Kurds and the Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq, and why it calls some "angels" while the Kurds affiliated with the Kurdish Workers Party are described as "devils."

NGO Movements in North Restricted by Turkey

NC1104165195 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dahuk, Iraq, April 11 (AFP)—Turkish authorities are restricting the movements of aid workers in northern Iraq, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) said Tuesday [11 April].

"The UN informed us on Monday night that from now on we have to hand in a written request for every move we want to make in the border area northeast of Zakho," a member of the French aid organisation Equilibre told AFP.

He said the NGOs would from now on have to give reasons, timing and a destination for their actions.

A Turkish foreign ministry representative issued the order and asked the UN aid operation in Iraqi Kurdistan to inform all NGOs operating in the border region, the aid worker said.

"If the Turkish representative doesn't approve, the NGOs can't move," he said.

Turkey sent more than 30,000 troops into northern Iraq on March 20 to hunt down Turkish Kurd separatists. Aid workers have been working in the region since the Iraqi Kurds took over the north after the 1991 Gulf War.

Paper Urges Turkey To Abandon Anti-Iraq Coalition

JN1104075095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi paper has said the Turkish Government is ignoring statements from senior government and Foreign Ministry officials to the effect that Turkey is keen to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and borders and that it rejects any attempt to harm the Iraqi people's supreme interests.

In an editorial today, AL-'IRAQ says: Before the ink used to write these statements dried, the Turkish Government sent thousands of soldiers, supported by heavy weapons and warplanes, to the northern area of Iraq under the pretext of pursuing Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] elements.

The paper adds: Turkish officials said the military operation is limited and will only take a few days because the goal is to comb areas thought to be PKK bases.

The paper notes that the Turkish troop deployment in large areas inside the Iraqi territory and the acts committed by these troops can only be described as an aggression against the Iraqi Kurds, a violation of the norms of neighbors, and a flagrant invasion of Iraqi territory.

The paper stresses that Turkey has turned into an obedient tool in the hands of the United States; its territory has become the primary station for the forces of the hostile coalition, which set up the so-called Hammer Force to provide protection for the outlaw gangs in Kurdistan.

The paper says: The fortification and protection of borders between neighboring states require mutual military, security, and legal measures and a high degree of cooperation and reciprocal arrangements and commitments.

The paper wonders: How can an established government of the region, such as the Turkish Government, enter into negotiations and agreements with a group of bandits and murderers who pursued the career of crime, plundering, and theft?

The paper says: Turkey is now paying a high price for supporting aggression against Iraq and protecting the abnormal, and rejected, state of affairs in Kurdistan.

The paper urges the Turkish Government to completely abandon the policies of the aggressive coalition against Iraq, the most flagrant and despicable form of which is the Hammer Force.

Paper Denounces Turkish Incursion in North

JN1004091795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq, saying the invasion is a flagrant breach of Iraq's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

In an article today, the paper says: This invasion is one of the most dangers chapters in the conspiracy against Iraq. It will exacerbate tension in the region. It also marks a departure from the traditions concerning relations among states and a violation of the rights and considerations of neighborliness, historical ties, and future interests, which Ankara has taken no consideration of at all.

The paper refutes Turkey's justifications for its military invasion of northern Iraq, which involves the suppression and murder of Iraqi Kurds and the destruction of Iraqi villages.

The paper says the Turkish invasion is a prelude to a Turkish presence that Iraq strongly rejects and demands an immediate end to without delay.

The paper says: Ankara's involvement in northern Iraq was the result of the reckless and unwise embrace of well-known Zionist advice. This involvement will create chaos in the entire region and gravely harm the future of Turkey's security and economy in southeast Anatolia.

The paper calls on the world community and the UN Security Council to force Ankara to withdraw its troops and stop infringing on Iraq's sovereignty.

Concluding its article, the paper calls on Ankara to understand the dilemma into which it has been pushed, and to quickly start cooperation and constructive and frank dialogue with the central government in Baghdad to end the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, since this constitutes the correct and sound beginning to resolve the security problem in Turkey.

Antiregime Attack, Items Captured Detailed

NC1104184795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an act of retaliation against the aggressive forces of the Iraqi regime, who keep up their barbaric attacks against civilians in the liberated areas of the Kurdistan region, a heroic force of the

Independent Kurdish Labor Party's [IKLP] peshmergas at 2300 on the night of 10-11 April mounted a disciplinary surprise attack along four axes against the headquarters of a company belonging to the 33d regiment in the operations sector in the Governorate of Irbil. The force succeeded in dealing a backbreaking blow to the 'Aflaqite enemy troops, inflicting heavy human and material losses on them.

The IKLP military bureau has issued a military statement on the operation. Following is the text of the statement:

Military statement No. 3, issued by the IKLP's military bureau. After a cease-fire among the Kurdish powers, parties, and Unified Iraqi National Congress on the one hand, and the Iraqi regime troops on the other, the 'Aflaqite troops seized the opportunity to commit fresh aggression against civilians in the Kurdistan region when they shelled their liberated areas with heavy artillery.

To take revenge on the aggressors, a group of the IKLP peshmergas at 2300 on the night of 10-11 April mounted a disciplinary surprise attack along four axes against the headquarters of a company belonging to the 33d Defense and Duties Regiment of the 5th Corps and against the headquarters of the 81st Warning and Control Battalion of the 4th Air Defense Sector and the surrounding positions.

During 15 minutes of heroic fighting, the IKLP force succeeded in taking control of the headquarters of the above-mentioned company and battalion and the surrounding positions. The 'Aflaqite enemy troops sustained the following losses:

1. Captain Ibrahim Khudayri Masraf, a friend of the dictator who had five of the so-called courage sashes, was killed. He was from the village of Hajj 'Ali;

2. Seven of the regime noncommissioned officers and soldiers were killed. [passage omitted];

The IKLP peshmergas seized various weapons and ammunition. They are:

1. A 60-mm mortar
2. A medium-caliber (BKK) machine gun
3. A French-made Thomson radio set
4. A (Rajal) radio set
5. 23 small-caliber Kalashnikovs
6. A diplomatic briefcase containing military papers and documents.
7. Large amounts of small-caliber shells and military ammunition

The heroic force returned safely to its base.

[Signed] The IKLP

[Dated] 11 April

Foreigners Said 'Already Active' in Oil Industry

AU1104150095 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 11 Apr 95 p 10

["dak"-attributed report: "Oil Investors Waiting for End of Embargo"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Duesseldorf, 10 April 1995—"Foreigners are already active in the hydrocarbon industry in Iraq," Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad said in his speech at the opening of a seminar on the future of the oil and gas markets in Baghdad that was attended by 250 delegates of major and minor oil corporations of 29 countries. On Monday, he confirmed negotiations with foreign oil concerns also for the news agency of Qatar.

Representatives of the French Total and Elf Aquitaine groups, Italy's Agip, and British Nat West Securities did not conceal that they would like to start work in Iraq today rather than tomorrow and that they are waiting for the sanctions to be lifted. Many smaller oil corporations are also entering the competition. They fear that the big companies could snatch all deals from them. The only ones not present at the meeting were U.S., Japanese, and most British corporations.

Before the Gulf War, Iraq produced 2.89 million barrels a day (b/d). According to the oil minister, current production amounts to 750,000 b/d, 50,000 b/d of which are exported to Jordan. The remainder is used to satisfy domestic demand. The capacity is said to be 2 million b/d.

Jawad is currently promoting cooperation with foreign companies for the development of reserves, which he said amount to 214 billion barrels. "Any oil company is welcome in Baghdad, even the Americans are welcome," he said. "However, he who comes first will be awarded the order, and this means that the Americans will probably be among the losers."

The minister estimates that $30 billion will be needed in capital in the first five years after the embargo is lifted. This would be enough to restore earlier capacities and increase production. If it is possible to secure investments of this amount, the country will be able to produce 3.5 million b/d after 14 months, and 4.5 million b/d within four or five years. Another $5 billion are necessary for downstream industries.

Jawad said that his government cannot accept the offer to export oil worth $1.6 billion to buy foods and pharmaceuticals abroad. This would infringe on Iraqi's sovereignty, since the distribution of imported goods would have to be subject to foreign control. Yet, experts on Iraqi politics believe that the real reason for this attitude lies somewhere else: They think that Saddam Husayn is using the suffering of the people as a weapon against the sanctions. He has enough funds to satisfy those close to him. One indication of this is, among other things, the construction of a luxurious palace above the ruins of Babylon, a project officially intended for public servants, but in fact designed for the Iraqi dictator, who repeatedly expressed his desire to live in Babylon.

In his speech, Minister Jawad tried to dispel the reservations of OPEC regarding the resumption of oil production in Iraq. "Our return to the world market should not be regarded as threatening the interests of other producing countries. We are ready not to produce more than the quota we are allotted," he said. [passage omitted]

RCC Reduces Conscripts' Military Service

JN0804172595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 26; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In the name of the people
The Republic of Iraq
The Revolution Command Council [RCC]
Decree No. 26
Date of Decree: 1 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1415 hegira, 1 April 1995
Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided to issue the following Law No. 7 of 1995, Law Amending the Military Service Law No. 65 of 1969.

Article One: The following shall be appended to Article Two of the Military Service Law No. 65 of 1969, and shall be numbered Paragraph 5 of that Article. The number of the following paragraphs shall be amended accordingly:

Paragraph 5. The duration of compulsory service for the rank of conscripts shall be reduced by one month if those conscripts do not have in their files any record of absence, absence without official leave, or desertion of military service.

Article Two: This law shall go into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Joint Economic Committee With PRC Begins Meetings

JN1204073795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi-Chinese Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, and Technical Cooperation today began the meetings of its eighth session, which will last for five days. The Iraqi side was headed by Dayf 'Abd-al-Majid Ahmad, deputy director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]. The Chinese side was headed by Liu Shanzai, vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation and deputy head of the Chinese side in the committee.

In a speech he delivered during the session, Dayf 'Abd-al-Majid Ahmad said that Iraq is eager to broaden prospects for economic, trade, and industrial cooperation between Iraq and China.

The MIO deputy director reviewed the negative effects of the continued unjust embargo against the people of Iraq. He added that the continuation of the embargo is not based on any legal pretext, especially since Iraq has met its international obligations. He noted the need for the Security Council to fulfill its commitments in return for Iraq's implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. He praised the Chinese Government's positive stand on Iraq in international forums and its understanding of the positive Iraqi stand toward the Security Council resolutions.

He said that the meetings of the Iraqi-Chinese Joint Committee today indicate the Chinese Government's positive stand on Iraq. He said he hoped that these meetings will yield positive results and will lead to the signing of a joint agreement that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples in the fields of industry, oil, agriculture, irrigation, transport, and communications.

Liu Shanzai, vice Chinese minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, expressed his country's keenness to develop prospects of cooperation with Iraq and deepen them in industry, trade, and other fields to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

In a speech during the meetings, he reviewed trade and industrial relations between Iraq and China and the fruitful and positive results of these relations that benefit the peoples of both countries.

During the meetings, the two sides will discuss the prospects for cooperation between Iraq and China in the fields of industry, trade, oil, transport, agriculture, and irrigation.

The Iraqi side to the meetings includes representatives from the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Irrigation, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Iraqi Central Bank. The Chinese side includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Bank of China, a number of Chinese companies, and the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad.

Liu Shanzai said that the results of talks held during the first session were very positive. He added that four subcommittees were formed to specialize in oil, trade, financial, and technological affairs, noting that these subcommittees will start work tomorrow, Wednesday, to pave the way for signing a memorandum of cooperation between Iraq and China.

PRC Minister Urges Lifting Sanctions

JN1104202095 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A ranking Chinese official has lauded Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations and its implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency correspondent, Liu Shanzai, Chinese vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, who arrived in Baghdad today to attend the 8th session of the Iraqi-Chinese Joint Committee, said Iraq has fullfiled all its commitments toward the Security Council resolutions.

The Chinese official expressed hope that the Security Council will lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq, including the siege. He added that his country is eager to expand the scope of commercial, industrial, and oil cooperation with Iraq in service of the interests of the two friendly peoples.

He said a shipment of food and medicine valued at 3 million Chinese yen is on its way to Iraq as a gift from the Chinese people in order to ease the suffering of the friendly Iraqi people. He said China will continue to send more such assistance.

Asked by the Iraqi News Agency correspondent about the possibility of Chinese companies resuming their work in Iraq, the Chinese official replied that a number of Chinese companies have actually resumed their activities in order to implement contracts and agreements that have been signed with the Iraqi side in the past. He expressed hope that the rest of Chinese companies will resume their activities anew and implement new contacts and agreements with the Iraqi side.

The Chinese deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation hailed the campaign of construction in Iraq, especially in the field of bridge and highway construction.

Jordanian Energy Minister Continues Visit

Meets RCC Official

JN1204055895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, today received Samih Darwazah, Jordan's energy and mineral resources minister.

The RCC vice chairman praised the fraternal ties between the two sisterly states and voiced his keenness to advance them.

Samih Darwazah underlined the importance of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and the need to strengthen that cooperation to serve joint Arab action.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Industry and Minerals Ministry.

Views Future Ties With Trade Minister

JN1204101895 Baghdad INA in English 0810 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 12 (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih met on Tuesday Jordanian Energy Minister Samih Darwazah. Bilateral ties and prospects of future cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

The trade minister also met Chinese external trade and economic cooperation undersecretary and deputy chairman of the Chinese side in the Iraqi-Chinese committee for economic and trade cooperation Liu Shanzai.

Dr. Salih stressed Iraq's keenness on developing and strengthening trade and economic cooperation with China to serve interests of both friendly peoples.

For his part, the Chinese official voiced his countries determination to resume close commercial ties with Iraq.

Educational Protocol Signed With Chad

JN1204102795 Baghdad INA in English 0815 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 12 (INA)—Educational, cultural and scientific minutes were signed here on Tuesday [11 April] between Iraq and the Republic of Chad for the years 1995-1997.

The minutes were signed for Iraq by Higher Education and Scientific Research Undersecretary Dr. Sabri Radif and for Chad by the Chadian ambassador to Iraq.

The minutes included boosting the cooperation in the above fields as well as exchanging cultural delegations between the two countries.

Minister Protests U.S. 'Spy Plane' Violations

JN1204102595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 Apr (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that the U.S. U2 spy plane continues to violate Iraqi airspace under the pretext of carrying out air surveillance missions on behalf of the UN Special Commission.

A letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, which Iraq's permanent envoy delivered yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, says that between 10 and 23 March, the U.S. spy plane, which takes off from a base in Saudi Arabia, made three sorties over the southern area and violated Iraqi airspace, thus raising the number of its violations to 243.

The foreign minister's letter denounced the use of that plane for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council and for its encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Coalition Air Sorties Protested to Arab League

JN0604132795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the Arab League against violations of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft, which seriously threaten Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

A message presented yesterday to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Iraq's league representative said these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 375 hostile air sorties 25-31 March.

Iraq's representative asked that the message be distributed among the Arab League member states to brief them on these regrettable facts.

Iranian 'Violations' Protested to United Nations

JN1204103195 Baghdad INA in English 0805 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 12 (INA)—Iraq has notified the United Nations on incessant violations of the ceasefire resolution and the buffer zone agreement by the Iranian regime over March 21 till April 2.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's U.N. ambassador said that an Iranian helicopter was observed in a reconnaissance duty at 1200 metre height over al-Usaywid area and then returned to the Iranian depth.

The same helicopter was also seen for the second time to the south of Majnun and landed in the abandoned Iranian position.

Column Refutes Stands of Political Exiles

JN1104101995 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information: "They Speak About Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqis who have engaged in politics for several generations know those individuals who once served in public life and then due to the temptations offered by certain states and organizations decided to settle abroad, shifting from one country to another. Yet, despite the changes in Iraq, these individuals have preferred the expatriate life with which they identify themselves.

Still, despite the attitudes these individuals have maintained, Iraq has remained magnanimous and the people's leader, Saddam Husayn, has continued to deal with and care for everyone, including those who at one time or another, due to certain circumstances, have harmed the country. In fact, many have been pardoned.

During and after the 30-state aggression we began hearing an old tune about democracy, that democracy, and not a U.S. desire to monopolize oil and dominate the region, was behind the aggression and the attempt to destroy Iraq. An unholy "democrahic" alliance sponsored by the United States and its intelligence service emerged, embracing all contradictions and suspect agents. In this situation, Iraqis abroad refused to fall into the swamp of treason. They rejected all temptations, adhered to their national affiliation, and declared by every available means their principled stand against aggression and the continuation of the blockade. The hordes of Iraqi expatriates who visited the country and offered material support testify to all that.

Talk about democracy did not stop, especially after the U.S. established the so-called safehaven north of latitude 36, after the armed gangs in the northern part of the homeland swallowed the U.S. bait and grew to like the idea of seizing power. The "safehaven" and "green paradise" the foreign intruders had prophesied and "the leaders and followers" of the suspect coalition in the region had dreamed of became the highest form of "democracy" known to history, where arms are the only means of understanding, "sanguinary liquidations" the alternative to freedom of expression, and liquidation, dismantling, and theft of the community's infrastructure—electricity projects, dams, etc.—and their sale to Iran became the quick way to urgent development!!

The peak of these armed gangs' attitudes in this "democratic" paradise was when they stood by as spectators while Turkish forces violated Iraq's sovereignty. The bitter thing was that some mercenaries even cooperated with these forces by providing them with information. So, where is the heroism they "boasted" of when they spoke about their crimes against the Iraqi people and their armed forces?!!

When you come across these professional politicians abroad, especially those who spent many years fighting imperialism in Prague and Warsaw, and wonder about their attitude to the homeland and its sufferings, you get an immediate answer. They say the reason for their remaining abroad is the lack of a democratic atmosphere in Iraq. When they are told that freedom of opinion, expression, and participation in representative institutions is guaranteed in Iraq and that, with the exception of treason and agentry to foreigners, all individual and collective actions are guaranteed by the law as in any other civilized country in the world, they refer to the regimes and atmosphere under which they live and tell you that they can say anything they like without hesitation.

When they are told that in Damascus, Amman, London, Paris, or Beirut that they attack Iraq, not the regimes under which they live, while Arab refugees in Iraq conduct their activities in freedom, they stop arguing because they are fully aware of the truth. There is not a single country in the world without prohibitions and strict rules for protecting its political, economic, and social systems. Laws are made to safeguard the security of regimes and societies from any tampering. There is not a single country in the world which is an exception to this rule, except those regions which have become jungles, such as the situation in northern part of the homeland, Somalia, and Rwanda, which would not have existed were it not for foreign intervention, especially U.S. and Western military intervention.

If we set aside these regions and turn to countries with Iraqi communities, including the countries of Europe and America, is it permissible for anyone there to attempt to overthrow the regime or sabotage the economy without being punished? We all know that actions which infringe on society, the political system, and the economy are not tolerated.

We would like to remind those who speak about "democracy" on the radios set up by the United States, and controlled by U.S. intelligence, of the experiments sponsored by the United States, the billions of dollars spent on them, and the real democratic atmosphere they experience.

In the Zionist entity, democracy means racial discrimination against Palestinians and Arabs in general; murder, destitution, and imprisonment are legitimate acts!

In Egypt, democracy is represented by campaigns of oppression and annihilation against the vanguards of the Egyptian nationalist movement and persecution of unions and organizations, and violation of sanctities!

In Saudi Arabia, and according to reports by international human rights organizations, counsel [shura] in this "kingdom" means liquidating opponents by dumping them from planes, banning freedom of opinion and expression on any public issue, and the supremacy of the ruling family on all walks of life!

In Kuwait, whose al-Sabah rulers were brought back on U.S. tanks, democracy means the ruling family monopolizing all powers, continuing to plunder the country's wealth, giving the cold shoulder to different opinions, and practicing discrimination and persecution against resident Arabs. These are examples of "democracy" sponsored by the United States. And, a great deal more can be said in this regard!

Contrary to all this, Iraq has built a political experiment which we are proud of. It has established the pillars of a political and social system despite the circumstances of the aggressive Iranian war and the 30-state aggression on the homeland. The leader of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, continues to enrich this experiment daily to ensure the broadest popular participation in political decisionmaking, from the base to the apex, through the party and its organizations as well as representative institutions, beginning with the unions, societies, federations, and the Legislative Council in the autonomous region and ending with the National Council. In this experiment, the press occupies a distinguished place.

Political life in Iraq has room for all the devout sons of the homeland, with the exception of those who have sold themselves to the foreigner. Every Iraqi is qualified, nay, is required, to become an effective and active part of this life.

Thus, a mature experiment is being formulated in Iraq and is being built brick by brick without acclaim or clamor and away from the interventions of the covetous foreigner.

As for those who speak about "democracy" from the propaganda pulpits financed by the United States, all we ask them to do is to examine the experiments which are sponsored by the United States in the Third World.

*Alleged Support From World Personalities Reported

95LH0097A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 9

[Article by Samir al-'Azzawi]

[FBIS Translated Text]

- How can the Mother of Battles be described on its fourth anniversary? How can the Iraqi people's rare heroism and persistent Jihad in resisting the nightmare of imperialism for more than four years, during which they suffered from the unjust and despotic sanctions, be described? At the World Personalities Conference convened in Baghdad last week, voices from France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Britain, Italy, Greece, Cuba, and America expressed their support to and corroboration with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the unfair aggression and sanctions. These personalities pledged to stand by the steadfastly resistant Iraqi people in their legitimate demand for lifting the sanctions imposed on them.

Their slogan was: "Support the Iraqi people for lifting the sanctions."

Those attending the conference for two consecutive days wrote a final statement, which included the following conclusions:

They believe that since Iraq has executed all relevant Security Council resolutions, the Security Council should lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq immediately and quickly because these sanctions are both unfair and inhumane. Moreover, the Geneva Treaty for Human Rights and the United Nations General Assembly's resolution of 22 December 1989 have both condemned and denounced the imposition of the sanctions.

They advocate the establishment of a committee composed of some world personalities who would submit within a few weeks the final report of the conference to all Security Council member countries. They call, soon, for the hosting of an international day against both the new international order and the sanctions. Besides, they demand that an international call in support of lifting the sanctions against Iraq be hosted.

The conferees expressed their great appreciation for the French Government for appointing a representative diplomat for France in Baghdad; they consider this appointment a positive step by France which urges other countries to follow suit. They also expressed their hope that France would, through its attempts in the Security Council, work out a positive resolution to be taken with regard to the frozen Iraqi assets.

Conference Voices

ALIF BA' met with a number of personalities attending the conference in order to register their feelings while they were in the steadfastly resistant Baghdad on the 4th anniversary of the horrendous aggression against Iraq.

Mrs. Zahrah Ben Bella, wife of former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Billa, said: "We are here in Baghdad this day to assert our support of the Iraqi people who resisted the challenges they confronted. I am here in Baghdad to represent my husband, Mr. Ahmad Ben Bella, who could not attend because he is busy dealing with Algerian political issues."

Mrs. Ben Billa continued: "I would like to stress the importance of bringing together the efforts of all the good people in the world so that these people can work diligently and energetically in order to influence those powerful world governments that are capable of lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Consequently, the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have lasted more than four years, can come to an end. In addition, this conference has been able to portray the picture of the terrible sanctions to the world."

Bishop Hillarion Kabutshi, former Bishop of Jerusalem, said: "Whenever I was asked about my identity, I would proudly answer that I am an Arab. I have suffered improsinment due to my involvement with Arab issues. Consequently, the Arab affiliation is deeply rooted in me: in my conscience and in all of me. I am at this conference because of this affiliation and in order to contribute—even in a small way—to the conference's work. This conference aims at taking the practical—not the emotional—steps to lift the darkness, i.e., the sanctions imposed on these kind people: the Iraqi people."

Bishop Kabutshi continued: "We demand the immediate lifting of the sanctions imposed on those people who have been suffering for more than four years. Many children, elderly, and women have died because of the lack of food or medicine. This is an unforgivable crime. This is an open violation of the least of human rights. I have come to Baghdad to support my brethren who are attending the conference, not just to talk, but to find practical ways to solve this problem. This is because persistent emotion is both hypocritical and fraudulent. Love is related to working and giving. Therefore, in order to lift the sanctions imposed on these people, we should reinforce our love for Iraq with action, not just with talk. This is the reason for my being in Iraq this very day."

The vice president of the Arab-French Appeal Society Dr. Sulayman al-Doqqi, who is a Tunisian physician resident in France, spoke about the Society's activities and his own feelings while he was in Baghdad, saying:

"The Arab-French Appeal Society was established in 1991, during the war years, as a reaction to the American-Atlantic aggression on the Iraqi people. The Society is composed of a number of French and Arab intellectuals. It took part in all cultural, media, and social activities for denouncing the war. More than two years ago, the Society launched a media campaign aiming at urging the French public and private hospitals to contribute to the treatment of Iraqi children injured during the aggression. Some medical French personalities praised the campaign and expressed their willingness to treat those children in France."

*Commentary on Years Following Mother of Battles

95LA0136A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 1 Feb pp 8-9

[Article by Rafi' al-Falahi: "What Has Been Achieved After Four Years?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was in the midst of the worst injustice and campaign of deception that relied on false slogans, under the auspices of the American "big stick," which was raised to threaten, terrorize, and extort, that the pages of the 30-nation aggression against Iraq were begun under the leadership of the United States. The aggression was first begun by means of political and economic pressure, which was followed by the plan and scheming plot of military aggression the night of 16/17 January 1991. This aggression epitomized the struggle between two mutually incompatible ideologies—the ideology of American supremacy, which employs international powers of evil of spurious legitimacy, and the Iraqi ideology based on principles, true values, justice, freedom, and independence, which the Iraqi people alone championed in confronting the aggression.

Since the more than four years that the struggle has been going on, the big question that imposes itself after all these long days, is: Why does the United States insist on continuing its aggression against Iraq after it announced, right after the cease fire of 28 February 1991, that it had achieved victory?

We have studied the four years of unjust aggression with all its military, political, and economic pages, to present a true picture of the reasons and motives that have pushed the United States to stick to the path of aggression, by means of which its frustrations are still unresolved, and by which the United States still threatens and menaces whenever the name of Iraq comes up. We must remember the sum total of factors that govern American Colonialist policy, and the theory of the colonialists on the dimensions of their unjust hostility.

The leaders of the United States from George Washington through Bill Clinton have believed that war "is a violent act the purpose of which is to force the adversary to submit to their will, and that war is an extension of their policies by other means." Anyone who reviews the record of "dirty deeds" that America has committed in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Haiti, and Somalia, and studies the military aggression against Iraq, will find that their faith in war in this manner, is a natural and logical faith for a country that has taken on the title of "great" by relying on brute force, which from the very beginning trampled on the heads of the "Red Indians," the original inhabitants of the United States, before moving out beyond its borders and "releasing its grip," immediately after the World War II, from the bodies of the victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after having earned the nickname of being "the first and last country to use atomic weapons!"

As for the second truth, it is predicated on achieving American interests regardless of which means are used, or what variety of roles are played, because the American leaders have always been stuffed full of ideas about methods by which America must prevail over the world and consequently take possession of all its capacities. Therefore, what is termed "the new world order," is nothing other than a bunch of ideas that successive American administrations have concocted to achieve American interests first. And, with the imploding of the Soviet Union and its collapse and surrendering of world leadership to the United States, the American leaders came to realize that the opportunity had finally presented itself for them to singlehandedly ordain policies that reflect only their own interests. As for what concerns the Arab World, American policies have never gone beyond its strategic alliance with the Zionist entity, which is a "necessary" alliance against the interests of this nation the territories of which contain the most important of all energy sources: "oil." And while the United States has been plotting for more than 20 years to take possession of this resource, the American administrations have been debating all the ideas pertaining to oil and the Arabian Gulf region the territories of which contain the world's largest reserves of oil. Among this hodge-podge of ideas that they continuously tried to implement right up until the hour arrived to implement the plan of aggression against Iraq, was that idea that was presented in the WASHINGTON POST newspaper in January 1975, and which was based on three important points, as follows:

In as much as it is difficult to decrease the United States'need for energy, it is necessary to think about using force to guarantee sources of energy, i.e., the oil wells in the gulf.

The oil-producing region is nothing more than a narrow coastal strip about 400 miles long, which means it is possible to undertake quick, effective military operations to occupy this strip with the fewest number of casualties. In the event the oil countries should resort to blowing up the oil wells during these military operations, it would be possible to repair these wells in anywhere from two to 12 months under the American occupation.

In order to bring about a precise, and sound implementation of this plan, it is necessary first to achieve a prior goal that the United States has long planned for, and this is to prevent the rise of any military, political, and economic power such as Iraq, in the Arab homeland in general, and in the Gulf region in particular, which is one of the world's centers of economic activity, because of what this power (Iraq) means in terms of guaranteeing the future of the Arabs, and providing them with security so they can focus on arranging their domestic affairs, and in terms of what this power would mean in the way of making the Arabs capable of affirming their presence and capabilities in soundly administering their mineral wealth.

The other truth that must be taken into consideration in studying the factors that govern American policy, is that the United States for a long time has been suffering from staggering domestic crises, the first of which is the economic crisis, because the United States is a country whose national debt has reached about $5 trillion; therefore, it realizes very well that it is not capable of maintaining its hegemony over the world except by way of trying to play a "card" for this purpose, and this "card" is: the huge military power that enables the United States to hold sway over the sources of oil, and Arab oil in particular, therefore, the United States finds, in the growing power of Iraq and its nationalism tendencies, something that represents a danger to its interests and to the strategic element in its orientation represented by having control over Arab oil. So what does all of this mean?

From the American viewpoint it means that Iraq directly threatens the ideology of American colonialism interests based on the necessity of controlling the course of the world economy via the power of oil, especially after Iraq succeeded in emerging from the eight-year war with a glorious victory and succeeded in putting the Arab nation on the road to renaissance far removed from problems of foreign pressure. From this standpoint, the true target of the American-Zionist aggression is not Iraq alone, but the entire Arab nation of which Iraq is the representation, and the means through which (the Arab nation is the target of the aggression).

Now, after the military aggression page has ended, and the wheel of Iraqi construction has turned once again, achieving huge successes considered even by Iraq's enemies to be a "miracle," numerous questions present themselves during the fourth anniversary of the aggression: What has been accomplished so far? Is it true that the United States achieved what it proclaimed on 28 February 1991? In short, the United States' continuing to impose the unjust embargo on the Iraqi people is a clear and firm indication that the goals of the aggression were not achieved, because what has happened is that Iraq, with its steadfast people, has been able to unveil the ugly face of the United States before the entire world, and to expose the false slogans it calls for, such as: "international legitimacy" and "human rights." Otherwise, what explanation is there for the continuation of the embargo against 20 million Iraqis, and exterminating them with the weapons of hunger and disease? Is it among the principles of the UN, and the Security Council, for the Iraqi people alone to continue to implement the international resolutions, while the sponsors of the resolutions do not implement what is required of them, which, in short, is lifting the oppression from an entire people?

The world today, does not resemble in every detail the world of yesterday in which the United States was able to recruit 30 countries in its aggression against Iraq via its big campaign of deception that the United States pursued in order to achieve its selfish goals, far-removed from international legitimacy, because the world today now realizes that it was the victim of that operation of deception, and many countries have reached the point of asking in a true and realistic manner: Is it in our interest to continue the embargo against Iraq? And why do we do harm to Iraq when we have common interests with it? Why? Why? These are big questions that besiege those who determine America's tyrannical policy. And, while Iraq, with its people, and its leadership, hold fast with utmost patience and faith to its national and patriotic rights, it will inevitably fulfill the hope that the economic embargo page will be torn to shreds just as all the other pages of the aggression were torn to shreds, and when that happens the American people must direct the same question at their leaders: Did you really achieve victory?

Rabin Urges Caution Over 'Arafat's Security Moves

TA1204101395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Apr 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres favorably accepted the steps Yasir 'Arafat has been taking against the Palestinian rejectionist organizations in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours.

Rabin and Peres received detailed reports about the arrests of more than 200 leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

Speaking in a closed forum, however, Rabin cautioned against drawing far-reaching conclusions. We have witnessed similar moves in the past, he said. They have arrested Hamas activists after murderous terror attacks took place, and then released them without a trial. Rabin believes that there is a need to wait and see whether this time 'Arafat will act firmly against those opposing the agreement with Israel. The real test to 'Arafat's serious intentions will be his disarming the extremist Islamic movements, the prime minister believes.

Peres' associates last night spoke about a possible shift in 'Arafat's attitude toward his opponents. They had received messages from Palestinian figures according to which 'Arafat has finally grasped the graveness of the current situation of the political process and realized that he must show determination and quell his opponents.

Contacts between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continued yesterday as well, and under a complete blackout. The parties are preparing the ground for a Rabin-'Arafat meeting. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Delay in Talks Will Lead to More 'Terrorism'

TA1204101095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that any attempt to hold up the peace process or the negotiations with the Palestinians would not bring about a drop in terrorism but rather lead to an increase in terrorist attacks.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that at a briefing to the Labor Knesset faction, Yitzhaq Rabin said that the constant intermingling of Palestinians and Israelis both inside the territories and within the Green Line created ideal conditions for terrorist attacks.

The prime minister explained that this is a difficult war against sophisticated organizations and individual lunatics who were supported by the local populace and by a religious clergy that was no less insane. Rabin pointed out that most of the casualties among Israelis had been caused by suicide terrorists. The prime minister asserted that this phenomenon began in April 1993, before the Oslo agreement had been reached. Therefore, all those who claimed that the terrorist attacks were the result of the Oslo agreement were lying.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Peace Cannot Be Pursued After Attacks

TA1104160195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Housing and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that despite its commitment to the peace process, the government cannot pursue the process in view of the shocking scenes of the funerals of the incidents' victims. He emphasized that the Palestinian Authority [PA] must guarantee full control over events in the Gaza Strip as a condition for the implementation of the next stage of the autonomy agreement. The PA can do this since it is the Palestinians' future that is placed on the scales here, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said during a tour of Hadera, and it is our correspondent Doron Golan who cited his remarks.

Singer 'Lashes Out' at PA 'Violations'

TA1104124295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Apr 95 p 9

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer has lashed out at the Palestinian Authority [PA]. In a special interview to the Bar Association's magazine in Jerusalem HALISHKA, due to be published in the coming days, Singer said: "The violations of the agreement that are being perpetrated by the PA in Jerusalem are most grave. Had it been up to me, I would have dealt with them first."

In a roundtable discussion with the magazine's editorial board, Singer disclosed that the negotiations on the clause dealing with the PA's activities in Jerusalem were the most problematic in formulating the Declaration of Principles. He noted that Israel is demanding that 'Arafat revoke the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant that call for Israel's destruction.

In response to a question about whether the Gaza-Jericho agreement is leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state, Singer replied: "The question of whether there will or will not be a Palestinian state will not be decided during the five-year interim period, but will be part of the negotiations on the permanent status. If Israel agrees to the establishment of a Palestinian state within the framework of the talks on the permanent status, such a state will be set up. If Israel does not agree, it will not be set up."

Asked how Israel would react if 'Arafat declares the establishment of a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Singer replied: "There is no doubt that an announcement by them on the establishment of a Palestinian state or unilateral annexation by us during the interim stage will be considered a significant violation of the agreement."

Labor MK's Urge IDF To Intervene Against Hamas

TA1104170795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Six Labor Knesset members [MK's] suggest that the prime minister return the security forces to the Gaza Strip to act against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad bases. In their opinion, a real action should be adopted, for otherwise Labor will return to the opposition. The six are MK's Eli Dayan, Shlomo Buhbut, 'Imanu'el Zismann, Rafi Elul, Salih Tarif, and Yoram Lass. Labor's Knesset faction will meet with the prime minister tomorrow to discuss the security situation. In an interview on the radio's evening newsreel, Eli Dayan, one of the six, said that despite the effort made by the Palestinian Authority, it cannot be relied upon any longer.

Army Has 'No Plans' To Return to Strip

TA1204054195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] say the army has no plans to return to the Gaza Strip and that the only way to operate there is in hot pursuit immediately following a clash with terrorists. The sources said the proposal of the six Labor Knesset members directly violates the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Committee Recommends Plan for 'Fixed Closure'

TA1104185995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Uri Kohen-Aharonov video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An absolute and fixed closure—this is the recommendation of the separation affairs committee headed by the police minister. This evening Minister Shahal submitted his conclusions to the prime minister. According to Shahal, the implementation of several alternatives to an absolute separation may be necessary due to certain constraints. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has the details:

[Begin recording] [Kohen-Aharonov] The preferred recommendation by the separation committee is an absolute and fixed closure, with regard to vehicles too. The committee found that there were hardly any terrorist acts in those case when an absolute closure was imposed on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the past. The cost of such a closure from the viewpoint of enforcing it is low; it is the cheapest in fact. An absolute closure, the committee notes, allows the forces to easily detect any strange or unusual element in the area. At the same time, political elements assessed that the absolute-closure idea will not be fully accepted for various reasons, despite its effectiveness.

[Shahal] Therefore, we went for the alternative, which constitutes the team's recommendation, in fact. This alternative is based on three principles. First, entry into Israel will be permitted only by licensing. Second, the entry of vehicles into Israel will be limited. Third, entry into Israel will be allowed only through regulated points. The assumption would be that anybody who crosses into Israel otherwise is coming to commit an offense and is held to be a suspect from the outset.

[Kohen-Aharonov] Only 30 problematic kilometers of the entire separation line will be fenced. A dividing space, loaded with electronic means, will be established in most of the separation area. The entry into Israel, by pedestrians and cars alike, will be allowed through eight major crossing points controlled by the police. The costs involved: In Judaea and Samaria, there will be a one-time outlay amounting to 587 million shekels and a regular annual outlay of 149 million shekels. In Gaza, there will be a one-time expenditure of 123 million shekels and a regular annual expenditure of 45 million shekels. The cost of separation in Jerusalem will amount to about 102 million shekels, as a one-time expense, on top of a regular, annual expense of 62 million shekels.

There will be no separation within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. At the same time, several static police stations will be set up in East Jerusalem, and the mobile forces and the occasionally erected roadblocks will be greatly reinforced. The main question here is whether reference is to hypothetical matters or to matters that will be implemented at once. [end recording]

Shahal: Territories Closed for Passover

TA1204125295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said a closure would be imposed on the territories from Thursday [13 April] afternoon until Sunday. He said that the police recommended continuing the closure for the week-long Passover holiday, but the prime minister did not agree. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that Minister Shahal spoke during a visit to the Kfar Sava police station. He said he would try to convince the prime minister to extend the closure during Passover.

Knesset Recesses for Passover With Exchanges on Gaza

TA1204130395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has suspended the debate on developments in the Gaza Strip and will continue it after the Passover recess. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres lashed out at the opposition saying it is trying to make cheap capital out of terrorism. He said that anybody wishing to enter Gaza by force only harms the inhabitants and pushes them into terrorism.

Minister Yosi Sarid reiterated his view that Netzarim must be evacuated. Tzomet Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan said that the answer to terrorism is establishing new settlements and increasing the population of existing ones.

At the outset of the debate, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu accused the government of having a stupid policy which encourages terrorism. Hayim Ramon, who responded for Labor, called on Yasir 'Arafat to fight a bitter war to the end against murderous terrorism. He stressed that we want to make progress in the political process, but we will not be able to do so if we are not convinced that 'Arafat is playing his part in the agreement.

Jordanian Ambassador Meets With Rabin on Ties

TA1104181695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The lack of progress on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks is making the development of peace with Israel difficult. Jordan's ambassador in Israel said this to Prime Minister Rabin today. The prime minister and Marwan Mu'ashshir met today, on the first work day for Jordan's new ambassador in Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] In the talk with Rabin, the Jordanian ambassador mentioned his country's disappointment with the fruits of peace, with the fact that the Americans and Europeans have not yet written off Jordan's debts. The prime minister again said that in his visit to the United States next month he will continue to exert pressure regarding this issue. Like his king before him, the new ambassador expressed his condolences over Sunday's incidents, while the prime minister refrained from embarrassing his guest and did not ask why the Jordanians continue to allow the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman to operate from Jordan and to relay his murderous declarations time and again, as was the case today as well. Beyond everything though, one must admit it is still pleasant to see the Jordanian flag while cruising among the cars exiting Jerusalem as if this were nothing new. [end recording]

Envoy Holds 'Secret' Meeting With Saudi Counterpart

TA0704112495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Israeli diplomat in the United States has recently held a first-of-its-kind meeting with his Saudi counterpart. A report on the meeting arrived in Jerusalem yesterday.

The meeting between the two consuls general who serve in the same U.S. city was held in a private house in that city. The meeting lasted several hours and was both political and social, as the wives of the consuls were present at the meeting as well.

The Saudi consul general said that his country would join the peace process as soon as "progress" is made in the negotiations between Israel and Syria. At the same time, he severely criticized the Syrian leadership and said that it should not be trusted.

The Saudi official further said that Islamic fundamentalism is today the greatest threat to the Arab world, including Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi diplomat expressed his willingness to continue holding bilateral meetings, but demanded that they be kept secret.

Raw Materials Purchased From Syria Via Third Countries

TA0704122195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has been buying raw materials from Syria for over a year. The transactions are conducted by firms in third countries but, according to Israeli sources, with the full knowledge and approval of the most senior levels in the Syrian Government. The purchases are conducted by a firm controlled by the Israeli Government.

Israeli sources said that the documents pertaining to the transactions are signed by dummy companies and that the real identity of the buyers and the sellers is concealed. "From the documents, it is impossible to establish that there is a business connection between Israel and Syria," they said. The raw materials themselves are transferred directly from Syria to Israel.

The Israeli sources added that Syria is not an important source of raw materials and that purchases from it amount to a minute share of the Israeli market. [passage omitted]

Rabin Said Interfering With U.S. Embassy Move

TA0904085595 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 9 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud Bureau has harshly attacked the prime minister and the government for acting to thwart the plan to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, chairman of the Likud bureau, noted that of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate, 97 have decided that the U.S. Embassy in Israel should be moved to Jerusalem. This was a joint initiative by both the Republican and Democratic Parties and headed by Senators Moynihan and D'Amato.

Landau charged that by exerting efforts to thwart the U.S. initiative, the government is again paying the PLO and Syria in the currency of concessions and surrender in a bid to appease them in the negotiations.

First Israeli Ambassador Presents Credentials to Regent

JN1104114295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel's first ambassador to Jordan presented his credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. Ambassador Shim'on Shamir joined seven other envoys who presented their credentials to the regent at the Royal Court.

Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan al-Mu'ashshir also presented his credentials to the Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman. Details with Paul Hijazin.

[Begin Hijazin recording] Eight ambassadors, including the first Israeli envoy, presented their credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. [passage omitted]

Shim'on Shamir of Israel is a professor of Middle East studies and a previous ambassador to Egypt from 1988 to 1990. He arrived in Amman last Thursday [6 April]. As part of his duties, the Israeli ambassador will have to supervise a host of emerging trade, cultural, and political ties.

Meanwhile, Jordan's first ambassador to Israel Marwan al-Mu'ashshir presented his credentials to Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman. After the ceremony, al-Mu'ashshir said people in both countries need to feel the benefits of peace.

Today's exchange of ambassadors between Jordan and Israel comes as part of the peace treaty signed on the 26th of October last year. Jordan and Israel had been represented at charge d'affaires level since the treaty was signed. [end recording]

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

JN1004085395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Yosi Beilin arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge this morning to take part in a committee meeting here this afternoon to prepare for the Amman economic conference in late October.

He was received by Foreign Ministry representatives, the bridges security director, and the Israeli charge d'affairs in Amman.

Israeli Tourists Reportedly Tamper With Antiquities

JN1004154595 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 8 Apr 95 pp 1, 10

[AL-'AHD is the weekly newspaper issued by the al-'Ahd Party, a pro-establishment, conservative party]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism's protests and memorandums concerning the behavior of Israeli tourists visiting Jordan who tamper with historical sites and antiquities by scribbling on them and attempting to destroy them, matters are still difficult to control, because these tourists do not abide by the norms of tourism.

Informed sources in the Tourism Ministry said that restoration work at some sites in Jerash, Madaba and at Prophet Aaron's tomb, which tourists have tampered with, was likely to take some time in view of the extensive damage done to them.

The sources gave as example the deliberate damage by some tourists on Prophet Aaron's tomb, which led to the closure of the passageway leading to the tomb.

The sources said that the Israeli conservation director who had visited Jordan to inspect the damage to antiquities by Israeli tourists submitted a detailed report to the Israeli Government on the tourists' reprehensible behavior. The sources said that this behavior has created tension within the Jordanian Government and resulted in wide-scale protests by official and popular quarters, which exploited these actions to attack the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Eyewitnesses and tourist guides who accompanied some Israeli tourists to Jerash report that among the daily practices of Israeli tourists is to write in Hebrew on some of the antiquities and carve the Israeli candelabra on them because they believe these belong to the Jews and that they have more right to them than others.

Some tourist guides said that they sense the disdain these tourists have for Jordan's heritage and added that if this continues, they will refuse to accompany these tourist groups to these sites for fear that they will be destroyed or damaged. The guides said that these practices are not carried out on an individual basis but are organized and systematic. The Jordanian Tourism Ministry is closely monitoring the situation but has not issued any statement on what is taking place because it fears that tourism might be affected. However, it lodged many complaints with the Israel tourism authority about these actions in an attempt to salvage the situation and have Israeli tourists abide by the rules of tourism.

Informed sources in the Ministry said the Ministry will take several precautionary measures to monitor Jewish tourists and prevent them from tampering with the antiquities.

Writers Group Threatens Expulsion Over Israeli TV Interview

JN1204080195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 95 p 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) voted in favour of dismissing one of its members for appearing on Israeli television.

In its first meeting after being elected on Friday, the committee decided to rescind the membership of Hamadah Fara'inah, but postponed implementation of the decision, pending consultations with the JWA's lawyer, said JWA President Ibrahim al-'Absi.

"(Talking to Israeli Television) is in contradiction with the association's interior regulations and those of the General Union of Arab Writers," said Mr. al-'Absi. "Mr. Fara'inah has also damaged the association's reputation."

Mr. Fara'inah, a columnist at AL-DUSTUR, gave a telephone interview to Israel Television last Friday. According to Basil Rafayi'ah, a member of administrative committee, Mr. Fara'inah said in his comments that the new administrative committee of the JWA was more flexible regarding relations with Israel and had a favourable stand vis-a-vis cultural normalisation with Israel.

"The association is not pro-normalisation," Mr. Rafayi'ah said.

"He has insulted the association and considered its administrative committee as supportive of Arab treaties with Israel."

Mr. Fara'inah, a columnist for 15 years, rejected the claims and vowed to take his case to court if the JWA implemented the decision to expel him.

He said Israel Television made an interview with him over the phone shortly after Friday's elections and that he had expressed his own point of view and not that of the association.

"I only said that the realistic trend within the association has won against the traditionalist stream," Mr. Fara'inah said. "I seek as an individual to influence the public opinion in Israel but I am not supporting the Israeli point of view. I do not dismiss the historic view of the Arab-Israeli conflict but I am using different means."

Mr. al-'Absi said the fight against normalisation or relations will not end unless all Arab and Palestinian rights are regained. He said the JWA was not targetting Mr. Fara'inah on personal grounds but because he had violated the association's regulations.

Mr. Fara'inah said: "The association is not a political party whereby all members should have the same and one opinion and should follow the same rules."

Mr. al-'Absi said: "Contacting the enemy cannot be considered as freedom of opinion. Mr. Fara'inah violated all rules and regulations."

However, Mr. al-'Absi said, the association will not take any measure against Mr. Fara'inah until they consult with the association's legal advisor. He said that the administrative body cannot take such a decision on the basis of the association's resolutions, taken in August last year. These resolutions, he said, could be considered null and void after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty in October.

Mr. Fara'inah became a JWA member in 1974. He has written three books and worked for several Jordanian newspapers.

Prince Hasan Receives Yeltsin Message for King

JN1004163695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court today Mr. (Kozman), deputy Russian foreign minister for Middle East and African affairs, who handed his highness a message from President Boris Yeltsin addressed to His Majesty King Husayn.

Following is the text of the Russian president's message to His Majesty King Husayn:

Your Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Your Majesty, thank you for the kind message and invitation to participate in the international conference for Middle East economic development and cooperation. We attach special importance to the economic development process in the Middle East which began at the Casablanca summit. I had the honor of co- chairing this summit along with U.S. President Clinton.

Russia will play a tangible role in the Amman conference. We highly appreciate cooperation with Jordan to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement between the Arabs and Israel. It is noted that your country was among the first parties to the peace process which signed a peace treaty with Israel.

I take this opportunity to assert that we in Moscow are looking forward to developing and promoting the cordial relations between our countries and peoples.

I wish you, Your Majesty, continued good health and well-being and the friendly Jordanian people success and prosperity. With due respect.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin

[Dated] 7 April 1995

Hizballah Denies Link to Bahraini, Algerian Events

NC1204100995 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement distributed in Beirut yesterday [2 April], Hizballah disputed media reports citing officials in Bahrain and Algeria saying that Hizballah is training opposition members in these two countries.

An official Hizballah source said: "We categorically deny any direct or indirect connection with the ongoing events in Algeria or Bahrain. We also state that the remarks made by the officials of these two countries confirm the dilemma through which the ruling authorities are passing. This has prompted the authorities to look for foreign factors, to blame them for the events."

Delegation Returns From Syria, Says Ross' Mission Failed

NC1004142095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 10 Apr (MENA)—The political reports Lebanese officials have received from Damascus indicate that the mission U.S. envoy Dennis Ross undertook during his shuttle tour between Syria and Israel in the past few days has failed and that there is a risk of halting talks between the two countries' ambassadors in Washington until further notice.

A Lebanese delegation led by Salim al-Huss, the former prime minister and parliamentarian, has met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The delegation later revealed that Ross' talks with the Syrian officials produced nothing and failed to make progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks, or in his attempts to involve the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in the talks.

Delegation member Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim Murad cited Khaddam as saying that the talks have returned to square one because of the Israeli intransigence and its rigid position on withdrawal from Syrian territory. Khaddam renewed his country's determination to achieve equal, balanced, and equivalent withdrawals.

Khaddam told the Lebanese delegation that the United States understands the Syrian position on withdrawal and that it is serious in its efforts to advance the peace process and soften Israeli rigidity.

Deputy Murad warned that the region is open to any eventuality in light of the failure of the U.S. official's mission and the cessation of the Washington negotiations, the resumption of which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher obtained an agreement on during his recent tour of the region.

The Lebanese delegation returned from Damascus today after holding contacts with Syrian officials.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Dennis Ross

JN1104161795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held a session chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. The Council discussed developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the Council on the political developments in the region and the results of the tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process. Al-Shar' said that Syria has always been and is still concerned about achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

The foreign minister said that the talks with the U.S. coordinator focused on the principles of equality [musawah] and balance [tawazun] in the security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line.

The foreign minister stressed that the peace process is slow and stumbling due to Israel's attempts to impose security concepts and to obtain privileges which are not at all in harmony with the UN Charter and the principles of the international law, in addition to the fact that they conflict with the UN Security Council resolutions on whose bases the peace conference was held in Madrid.

The foreign minister said that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, adheres to its just stand and to the requirements of the peace process which are recognized by the international community and enjoy large-scale support from the Arab people everywhere.

Israel Blamed for 'Failure' of Tour

JN1104140395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No one in the region and the world is unaware that Israel is highly skilled in reversing facts. Only yesterday, Israeli officials, as is their habit, expressed disappointment over the failure of the tour of the U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross. They blamed Syria for this, citing the pretext that Syria insists on tough demands. Syria's demands, however, are legitimate, just, normal, and in conformity with the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Among Syria's demands—which Israel finds odd—is the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines and setting up balanced and equitable [mutawazinah wa mutakafi'ah] security arrangements on the two sides of these lines.

It is common knowledge that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—which were adopted as a basis for the peace process and the international initiative—stipulate full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Israel's evasion of these two resolutions shows which party is obstructing the achievement of peace. No one is asking Syria to, or expects that it will, abandon its land and rights. What is required from the aggressor and occupier is to submit to the will of the international community and the foundations of the peace process and return the land and rights it has usurped by military force.

Israel is the aggressive and occupying party. It has always been the one to start aggression and has followed a policy of expansion and settlement activity since its foundation, at the expense of the occupied territories. Despite this, and out of its desire to make the international peace efforts succeed, Syria has agreed to balanced and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements, without asking for special guarantees and without imposing impossible conditions, as Israel did. Syria agreed to this, even though it has a right to demand very strict guarantees. This is because Israel is not only an aggressor; it has a huge arsenal of advanced conventional weapons and nonconventional weapons. In addition, Israel has refused to endorse the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Hence, Israel's insistence on excluding equitable and balanced security arrangements and its attempts to blackmail Syria and not observe the simplest principles that are agreed upon by the international community are really the cause for the faltering steps of the peace process and the efforts of the U.S. administration and its envoys. What Israel is doing is reversing facts; that is, blaming Syria for what it should be blamed.

Everybody now knows that peace in the Middle East can never be achieved unless it is just, comprehensive, and in line with Security Council resolutions and the principles of international law. Unfair agreements have not brought the region any closer to peace. What we see in the occupied territories is good evidence of this. Syria has made it clear, right from the very beginning, that peace depends on full Israeli withdrawal, return to the 4 June 1967 lines, and removing all traces of aggression. Had Israel responded to the foundations of the peace process, the land-for-peace principle, the requirements of an honorable peace, and withdrawn its forces, peace would now have been a concrete reality.

What has happened is that Israel has not evacuated its forces from the occupied territories. Instead, it has pursued settlement activity, practiced a policy of blackmail and bargaining, and insisted on imposing its hegemony and implementing its schemes, thus obstructing the peace process.

Syria has reiterated on every occasion that it wants a true and honorable peace. This peace must be acceptable to present Arab generations and it should be safeguarded by future generations. Syria has also emphasized that the Golan will never be up for bargaining. It is an indivisible part of the homeland. Such a viable peace that can ride out all crises requires Israel's full withdrawal and agreeing on fair, just, and balanced arrangements. If Israel were truly concerned about a durable and firm peace, it would have responded to Syria's objective conditions. Israel should learn lessons from the unfair Oslo agreement, which did not achieve for it the simplest requirements of security. This is because peace and justice are closely allied in this part of the world. There can be no peace under occupation, hegemony, and domination.

Al-Shar' Denies Plan To Close Palestinian Offices

NC0804143195 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with Future Television [owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri] last night, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher participated more than ever before in the recent talks in Washington between Israeli and Syrian ambassadors, Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim.

Asked whether 1995 will be a year of peace, al-Shar' noted that the same thing was said about 1994, but nothing tangible was achieved. He said Israel's attempts to accuse the resistance in the south of terrorism have not succeeded because the resistance's operations are a legitimate right which they is exercising in defense of their land.

Al-Shar' said that Syria does not intend to ask the Palestinian rejectionist organizations to close their offices in Damascus, thus denying reports that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has informed the leaders of these groups that they must get prepared to leave Syria.

Assembly Speaker on Peace Process, Lebanon

MM1104143095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah by Hatim al-Butaywi in Rabat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Butaywi] In your speech to the Arab parliamentary delegations, you called for Arab unity of ranks and amity of hearts. Do you not believe that Syria should first apply that to itself? You spoke of warm Syrian- Lebanese relations, but what about Syrian-Iraqi relations?

[Qaddurah] That is a long story. We say it quite frankly, we are all for the unity of the Iraqi people and territory and for lifting the embargo and ending the suffering of our people in Iraq. When we used to express our views on the Iraq-Iran war and many other matters, and when Syria was almost alone in the positions it took, we were blamed for the things we said. We have maintained a position regarding the Iraqi regime before the Iraq-Iran war and before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Many people said that that was a partisan position linked to differences between parties. We never thought that way. Our aim has always been to serve the higher Arab interests. When the higher Arab interests are fulfilled, all differences disappear.

[Al-Butaywi] Did you meet with your Iraqi counterpart during the Arab interparliamentary conference?

[Qaddurah] No, I did not.

[Al-Butaywi] What is Syria's position on the question of forming an Islamic parliamentary union, advocated by Iran and Pakistan?

[Qaddurah] Regardless of who called for such a union, we as advocates of Arab solidarity ask: Why is there an Islamic political organization, an Islamic cultural organization, and an Islamic population organization, but no Islamic parliamentary union? We support the formation of an Islamic parliamentary union and will work for the success of such a call in the right circumstances. [Al-Butaywi] A few days ago, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced that some progress has been made in the current Syrian-Israeli negotiations in Washington but, at the same time, he indirectly warned that time is quickly running out particularly with the approach of Israeli elections. Do you not believe that a Likud assumption of power would minimize the peace chances on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Qaddurah] I do not believe that Israel or the other parties are claiming that. Syria's position is known and has been declared and practiced. We never operate under the table, to use the political expression, or have secret views or meetings. When we went to Madrid we did so on defined grounds. The more the practice is distant from the Madrid basis the less advantageous it is for peace. The Syrian position on the basis of which we went to Madrid is the compass which we will never deviate from. We sometimes repeat the slogans of others without studying them in depth. Syria is now the only party which speaks out frankly and truthfully. Some view that as some kind of obstinacy and awkwardness and so on. The Arab people must know that if the negotiations and the peace process do not proceed in accordance with the UN resolutions, the land-for- peace principle, equality, and balance, there will be no peace and none of the other agreements will survive. [passage omitted]

[Al-Butaywi] In view of the recent incidents in southern Lebanon and the "Katyusha agreement" which prevents Israel and Hizballah from attacking civilian targets, does Syria still insist on that agreement?

[Qaddurah] First of all, Syria never insisted on it or declared that it would insist on it. That is a matter between Lebanon and whoever concluded that agreement. Syria was never concerned with such agreements between others because we do not interfere in Lebanon's internal or external affairs. I believe that those concerned with that agreement have nothing to do with

Syria. That kind of talk is media talk promoted by Israel and has no basis on the ground.

[Al-Butaywi] Speaking of the Israeli media, Israel claims that Syria had agreed to restrain Hizballah in Lebanon. What is your comment on that?

[Qaddurah] It said that, but Syria did not say it and never would because this is an internal matter pertaining to other people and another state. Israel could say that Syria would sign an agreement with it tomorrow morning, but that does not mean that what Israel says is divine. Why do we have to cite what the enemies say against our nation and not cite the positions taken by our nation in the face of its enemies? Why all these questions about peace? Why do you not question the Americans, the Europeans, or the Israelis? [Ask them] why do you take that attitude on the peace process? Why do you want to devour everything, and why do you want to wipe out the Arab nation's existence? Why do you raise Middle East [market] slogans? and why do you want to possess nuclear weapons?

You Arab journalists should all take that view and should not just take abstract slogans from any other country and come to our governments and our nation and ask them, why do you not do this or that? Is that not a strange question? Why not call on the Americans to support international legitimacy? For example, Resolution 425 was proposed by the United States which secured votes for it in 1978. Now the United States does not want to implement it. Why not ask it why it does not want it implemented? Israel has 200 to 300 nuclear warheads. Which Arab newspaper pointed an accusing finger at it and said, why should you have that and not us? Perhaps we do not wish to have such weapons but when one party has a certain capability, we should try and have the same capability. [passage omitted]

Damascus Reports Gaza Blasts, Condolences to Rabin

JN1004081295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occupied Palestine—Six Israeli soldiers and one settler were killed, and approximately 45 others were injured, 10 of whom were said to be in critical condition, in two explosions that occurred at the entrance to the Kfar Darom and Netzarim settlements in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

News agency reports and journalists' dispatches say six Israeli soldiers and settlers were killed in a boobytrapped truck explosion that targeted an Israeli bus carrying soldiers and settlers near Kfar Darom settlement in the southern part of Gaza Strip. About 30 persons were injured in the explosion. Israeli helicopters evacuated the injured to hospitals.

In the second explosion, which took place only hours after the first, a Border Guard soldier was killed and 10 others were wounded when a boobytrapped car collided with an Israeli military jeep near Netzarim settlement. [passage omitted]

The limited self-rule authority's police started a campaign against the Palestinian intifadah activists in the Gaza Strip only hours after two suicide attacks that resulted in the death of six Israeli soldiers and one settler in Gaza.

Palestinian citizens in Gaza have said that police night patrols arrested some 100 supporters of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas movements. The citizens say that among those arrested was Shaykh Jadallah Jadallah, father of a Hamas member who was killed last October in a clash with Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the limited self-rule authority's police, threatened that his forces will soon destroy the Hamas movement's military wing. In an interview with Israel Radio last night, Yusuf said that his police force will persistently seek to arrest those responsible for the two suicide operations that took place yesterday in the Gaza Strip.

Yasir 'Arafat, head of the limited self-rule authority, was quick to denounce the two operations. He telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and offered condolences for those killed in the two explosions. He said his authority is determined to fight what he called terrorism.

King Husayn of Jordan also telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday and offered him condolences for the victims of the two suicide operations that took place in Gaza. Israel Radio said that Rabin thanked the king for his condolences.

U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday stressed the need to exert all possible efforts to secure a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. REUTER cites President Clinton as saying in a statement issued in Los Angeles that the operations carried out by Palestinians must not be allowed to obstruct the efforts seeking to achieve peace in the Middle East. U.S. Vice President Al Gore said he expects Yasir 'Arafat, head of the limited self-rule authority, to bring to trial those responsible for the two explosions that took place near Kfar Darom and Netzarim settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Press: Israel Must Comply With Peace Requirements

JN1004072695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Conditions and Requirements for Genuine Peace," AL-BA'TH says in an editorial that the success of the peace process hinges on definite compliance with certain conditions and requirements that underline full and complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borders, and also withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The paper says: Israel has not yet taken the necessary steps to help achieve real progress in the peace talks, which could provide the real ground to advance the peace process.

AL-BA'TH holds Israel fully responsible for failing to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region; a peace for which the world has mobilized countless efforts.

The paper adds: Syria has always stressed that the kind of peace Israel wants is not peace at all. What Israel proposes is part of its policy, which seeks to impose its hegemony on the region. Syria, which entered the peace process on the basis of clear and specific conditions, cannot accept any of the Israeli conditions. These Israeli conditions are far from the conditions and requirements for genuine peace that ensures that rights are returned to their owners and provides security, stability, and peace for all parties.

AL-BA'TH notes that the conditions and requirements for genuine peace are real and that the U.S. peace initiative was launched on this basis. If Israel commits itself officially to these conditions and requirements, then the peace process can advance and achieve what the region's peoples and the entire world community are aspiring to achieve.

Under the headline "Syria Rejects Blackmail," TISHRIN says: Everyone in the region and the world is aware of the fact that Israel possesses a large arsenal of advanced conventional and non- conventional weapons and that it refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty because it wants to accumulate more weapons of mass destruction.

TISHRIN adds: Despite this military imbalance, Syria agreed to reciprocal, equitable, and balanced [mutabadalah wa mutakafi'ah wa mutawazinah] security arrangements within the context of a peace agreement that ensures the return of the entire Golan Heights. Furthermore, Syria has not made excessive demands for security guarantees despite the fact that Israel is the aggressor and is occupying the Arab territory and developing schemes of aggression and expansion.

The paper says: However, this balanced and objective position, which is based principally on a belief in peace as a sacred goal, was not received favorably by Israel, whose rulers are accustomed to trading in peace and to using the peace process as an instrument to exercise blackmail. That blackmail took the form of an evasion of, and procrastination over complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and impossible conditions regarding the security arrangements. Israel refuses the principle of equitability and balance [takafu' wa tawazun] and insists on disrupting the balance of powers and interfering in affairs that are a basic part of Syrian sovereignty. Naturally, Syria rejects this blackmail. It reminds the Israeli rulers that the principles of peace do not apply to one party alone, but to both parties.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Israel's continued avoidance of the peace requirements and its blackmail attempts do not generate optimism. Instead, they waste more time and effort and squander the opportunities to achieve peace. Syria does not accept blackmail. Nor will it be pushed into abandoning rights. Syria also rejects any formula that does not lead to just and honorable peace that would return all the territory and preserve dignity.

Press Claims Security Needs Equality, Balance

JN1204104695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "Syria Rejects Any Incomplete Peace," AL-BA'TH underlines certain basic points concerning the peace process and the efforts exerted to end its stalemate.

The paper says: When Syria agreed to resume the talks at the level of ambassadors in Washington, it provided a real opportunity to advance the peace process. Israel built its hopes on illusions when it hoped to return to the "exchange of ideas" dialogue and demanded to upgrade the level of negotiations without providing any evidence on its commitment to the peace initiative. This is because Syria will always stick to the principles of a just and comprehensive peace, and its option in that regard is a strategic one. Therefore, it is not interested in wasting any more time. Nor is it in a hurry as long as Rabin's government is still opposed to the substance of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: As regards the security arrangements, which were the main focus of the U.S. envoy's [Dennis Ross] talks in Damascus, Syria was very clear from the beginning with its position that is based on the principle of achieving equality [al-musawah] and balance [al-tawazun]. Any other ideas constitute an argument that does not concern us. Any security or geographic pretext promoted by Rabin in this regard is unacceptable to us. We consider such pretexts an attempt to procrastinate and set rejected conditions, which, if accepted, will lead to an incomplete peace that cannot survive. Syria has rejected, and will always reject such a peace.

TISHRIN discusses the Israeli hostility to peace. It stresses that the climate of pessimism resulting from the retreat of the regional peace process has been produced by Israel.

TISHRIN says: Syria has repeatedly stressed that the talks have not been, and will never be, an end in themselves. The opportunity Syria has provided to the U.S. political efforts to resume the Washington talks, with the participation and supervision of the United States, has started to erode. Israel is responsible for such a situation because of its obstacles, hurdles, and security pretexts and ideas which reject withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and returning to the 4 June 1967 borderline.

TISHRIN stresses that if Israel is serious about its desire to achieve peace, it would have responded positively to its requirements, particularly withdrawal in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The climate of pessimism resulting from the retreat of the regional peace process has been produced by Israel. Israel must not in any way continue its policy, which rejects withdrawal and which will create explosive conditions, escalate tension, and exacerbate the cycle of violence in the region. All this will place Israel in a dilemma, the only result of which will be to expose Israel's strategy of aggression, expansion, and terrorism which it exercise in broad daylight.

In two commentaries on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH emphasizes Syria's seriousness about the peace process and says that Israel is obstructing the efforts to end the stalemate in the peace process.

In its first commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Everyone now knows what Israel is doing to obstruct these efforts. Israel seeks to evade the principles of the peace process, particularly the land- for-peace formula, by adopting the method of separate deals and partial solutions, like the Oslo and Wadi-al-'Arabah agreements, which, it has been confirmed, have nothing to do with peace. They only guarantee Israel's interests and relinquish the Arabs' legitimate rights to return their occupied land and regain their usurped rights in full.

In its second commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Before shedding crocodile tears over peace, the Israeli officials must first reconsider their positions and what they have offered, and are offering, on the table of negotiations. When they acknowledge the need to have justice, comprehensiveness, equality [tasawi], parallelism [tawazi], and equitability [takafu'] in what they call security arrangements, they can open the road to peace, which is the only way to guarantee security and stability for all parties.

Radio Urges Arab, Regional, World Cooperation

JN0904150795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the beginning of the search for peace in the Middle East, Israel has been attempting to evade and circumvent the requirements of peace, the early signs of which once appeared in the offing. However, instead of being a vital party in the search for peace that is based on withdrawal from the territories and the restoration of rights, Israel has adopted an evasive course and planted obstacles and mines not only before just, comprehensive peace, but also before regional and international security and stability. When the Middle East becomes a hotbed of tension and instability, world security will remain subject to threats and instability.

The world governments and peoples have acknowledged that Middle East peace is the basis of international peace and security. Hence, the Tel Aviv rulers' daily practices, represented by military aggression, espionage, and threats to regional stability and security, mean that the threats and aggression are aimed not only against regional stability and security, but also against the security, peace, stability, and the independence of all world peoples and governments. When we firmly oppose partial solutions, refuse that our nation's rights be harmed, and firmly reject bargains over our territory, it is because we want the Middle East peace—if it is achieved—to be a solid foundation and strong base for world peace and security.

A quick look at the current regional situation, deliberately developed away from the heavy responsibilities to which we have referred, shows to what extent the Syrian position and the Syrian people's will, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, serve the trend toward world peace. Peoples of the world have offered consecutive sacrifices for the sake of such a peace. From a position of responsibility, we say that establishing a fragile peace in the Middle East, a peace that is intended for transitional consumption and the promotion of political regimes and structures, does not serve world peace. Rather, it harms it. To be honest, we further say that such practices are a conspiracy against world peace, although its features may not be clear now under the current circumstances.

Responsibility necessitates Arab, regional, and international cooperation to establish a just, comprehensive Middle East peace that serves world peace rather than undermines it, strengthens it rather than weakens it, and helps it to last and stabilize rather than drag it into the abyss. This way, Israel may comply with the conditions and requirements of a just peace. Otherwise, Israel will remain as it is, and as the entire world knows it to be—a state of aggression and expansion.

Jericho VOP Cites Human Rights Violations in Country

JN1104060995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amnesty International has condemned the Syrian authorities' disrespect for human rights and their continuous resort to torture, excluding no one, not even foreign nationals.

In a report issued in London, the international organization said thousands of men and women are imprisoned in Syria for political reasons and that flagrant violations of human rights are being practiced against them. Amnesty International condemned the absence of fair trials and the collective disappearance of opponents.

It added that the families of hundreds of prisoners belonging to various political organizations, in addition to foreign and Palestinian, Lebanese, and Jordanian nationals, are still waiting to know the fate of their sons.

The organization called on the Syrian authorities to quickly improve the status of human rights in Syria.

Council Discusses Progress of Company Projects

JN1004181295 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Mar 95 P 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus (SANA)—The Higher Council for Companies held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1300 yesterday which was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; member ministers of the council; the assistant minister of irrigation; the representatives of authorities which are members of the council; the director of the bureau of the Higher Council for Companies; the managers of state construction organizations and companies; and several directors and advisers.

During this session, the council discussed the memos submitted on several issues relating to the financial and legal conditions of the state construction organizations and companies, the difficulties facing the progress of work in the projects they are implementing, and the proposals on how to overcome these difficulties and speed up the work of the state construction organizations and companies so as to enable them to implement their tasks in the best possible manner.

The prime minister emphasized the need to use all available capabilities in the best possible manner and to achieve the economic feasibility of the projects which are to be concluded. He explained the importance of on-site follow-up of the progress of the projects which are being implemented to ensure that they are completed within their set deadlines.

Defense Minister Receives Austrian Chief of Staff

JN0904164295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this morning received General Karl Maison, chief of the General Staff of the Austrian Army and Armed Forces. The Austrian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between the Austrian and Syrian Armies and ways of promoting them in the interest of both armies.

The guest general arrived in Damascus on 6 April on a visit of several days to Syria. He will inspect the Austrian contingent operating within the disengagement troops on the Golan.

Turkish Tourism Minister Signs Protocol, Departs

JN1004143895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Tourism Minister Irfan Gurpinar and the accompanying delegation left Damascus for Turkey this morning after a four-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the Turkish minister held talks with a number of Syrian officials and signed an executive protocol for the agreement on tourism cooperation between the two countries for 1995 and 1996.

The Turkish minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat, the assistant tourism minister, the heads of the Tourism Ministry directorates, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and the Turkish Embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Russian Warplanes 'Heavily' Attack Badakhshan

LD1104173995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening [10 April] Russian warplanes heavily bombarded residential areas in the district of Baharak, Badakhshan Province. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported to us that Russian warplanes yesterday evening dropped 19 bombs in an area north of the seminary of the Shahr Naw in Baharak. As a result of this bombardment five members of a single family were martyred, and a large number of houses and farms were destroyed.

Likewise the warplanes bombarded the area of Nurabad, in Walang, in the district. As a result about 600 animals were killed.

According to another report CIS forces based in Tajikistan fired five rockets into the center of Darwaza, Badakhshan, as a result of which five houses and an hospital were destroyed. The BAKHTAR agency adds that on the previous day four Russian warplanes bombarded savagely Chah Ab in Takhar where they caused heavy loss of life and material. It is the second time that the CIS warplanes have violated our country's airspace and relentlessly bombarded residential areas and farms.

Foreign Ministry Lodges Protest

LD1104182995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Apr 95

["Protest note" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "regarding the bombardment of residential areas in our country's northern regions;" date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite having good relations with neighboring countries—in particular with the Republic of Tajikistan—and notwithstanding the observance of principles of good-neighborly relations, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has received a report that Russian Federation aircraft, in violation of our country's airspace, savagely bombarded the Baharak District, Badakhshan Province, at 1500 hours on the evening of 9 April 1995.

Nineteen bombs were dropped on areas north of Madrasa in Nawi Shar, Baharak District, resulting in a large area of agricultural land, orchards, and residences being destroyed. Five innocent people were martyred. A large number of animals were destroyed as a result of nine bombs being dropped on the Nurabad region of Malango.

According to another report, four Russian SU-25 aircraft violated the country's airspace in Takhar Province at 2345 hours on 9 April 1995 and bombarded a number of areas in Chah Ab District. Four residences were damaged as a result of these aggressive actions.

According to another report, the Russian border forces conducted heavy weapons fire against Darwaz District, Badakhshan Province, resulting in the destruction of the district's hospital and injuries to three innocent people.

In expressing strong protest against these aggressive actions by the border forces of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan asks the competent authorities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan to refrain from such violations, which will cause grave consequences.

Taleban Commanders Abandon Positions in Farah

LD1104160495 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three commanders of the Taleban and their men abandoned their positions. According to a report by an authentic source close to the Taleban, 'Abdol Manan, Nasroddin, and Ramazan, three Taleban commanders, left the front lines in Farah Rud with their men and have gone to the city of (?Quetta) in Pakistan. The source said the existence of internal differences in the Taleban group [words indistinct] was the reason for the commanders' action. The positions abandoned by the aforementioned commanders have now been captured by Ismail Khan's forces.

Bangladesh

Editorial Views Visit of Hillary Clinton

BK1104134695 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 3 Apr 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Hillary Clinton in Bangladesh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, is now in Bangladesh. She arrived in Bangladesh yesterday on a three-day private visit. The members of her entourage include her only daughter Chelsea, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asia, senior officials of the White House, and a 30-member press delegation. A team of secret agents entrusted with the responsibility of looking after her security has also arrived. This visit of Hillary Clinton to Bangladesh is a part of her 14-day tour to five South Asian countries. She has already concluded her tour of Pakistan, India, and Nepal. After concluding her visit to Bangladesh, she will go to Sri Lanka. Her itinerary in Bangladesh includes a visit to the project sites of two nongovernmental organizations, a visit to the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh in Dhaka, meetings with the president and the prime minister, and participating in a reception to be held at the U.S. Embassy. We welcome the U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, and the members of her entourage. We wish them a pleasant and successful visit.

Hillary Clinton is on a private visit to the five South Asian countries including Bangladesh, but the political, diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian importance of her visit cannot be denied. The White House, in a statement issued prior to her visit, said that Hillary will meet with representatives of government and nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, educational institutions, and business and cultural organizations in these countries. President Clinton, commenting on the visit of his wife, said that she is vocal about the problems of children, families, and society. Hence, the first lady will be the best envoy to tell these countries that the concern of the U.S. Administration about these problems is even greater than regional politics. She is likely to explain that politics in the true sense of the term has a humanitarian aspect. It becomes clear from the statement issued by the White House and also from the remarks made by President Clinton that Hillary Clinton, besides observing the activities of government and nongovernmental organizations, will also exchange views with prominent people associated with religious activities, education, business, and cultural affairs. She will also present the policy and opinion of the United States on different issues related to children, women, and society. It seems that this visit will not only give her a clear idea and enrich her experiences about these issues but will also contribute significantly toward developing the relationship between the United States and these countries. Hence, there is little reason to regard her visit as a private visit.

Hillary Clinton is not like the previous first ladies of the United States. She is a first lady with a difference. Before becoming the first lady, she was one of the leading lawyers of the United States. She is a pioneer of programs that have been launched for strengthening family ties and tradition, ensuring the welfare of children, and the development and empowerment of women. Even after becoming first lady, she remained associated with the programs related to the development of the family, children, and women. At the same time, she is the chief of the task force on health affairs and is a leading adviser to the current President. People both at home and abroad regard her as a respectable lady, as she has taken over the responsibility for the execution of these programs. She has built a personality and image of her own. In her private life, Hillary Clinton believes in traditional family life. She is a symbol of maintaining a balance between the family, work, and social service. The main objective of her activities is to establish this balance everywhere. In her personal life, she is very pious. Many people believe that this religious belief has made her very firm and confident. She has said herself that apart from her parents she has also been influenced by the clergy of the Methodist Church. The life, religion, values, and beliefs of Hillary Clinton are exceptional examples for the people of our country, in which a section of nongovernmental organizations are actively engaged in activities aimed at ruining traditional family life and values, creating social indiscipline under the pretext of the establishment of women's rights and their empowerment, and are indulging in a propaganda aimed at turning the people away from religion and religious norms. Her way of life and activities prove the worthlessness and the sinister motives of the programs of these so-called nongovernmental organizations and feminists. In this regard, the philosophy and way of life of Hillary Clinton can be a great source of inspiration.

India

Editorial Questions Value of NPT Extension

BK1104122995 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 10 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Why Nuclear Non-Proliferation?]

[FBIS Translated Text] The nuclear powers do not want any other country to cross the sacred boundary they have set for others. Countries like India, Israel, and North Korea consider this boundary to be a disgrace in a world order based on fair play and justice. Next week in New York, an international meeting is likely to take place concerning extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The whole world is witnessing the fervor with which the camps are being created to force those Third World countries with unrealized nuclear capabilities to sign the treaty. When Pakistan's prime minister reached the United States, the first question she was asked was whether her country would sign the treaty. When the deputy secretary of the State Department visits Delhi, he (or she) invariably asks our Defense Ministry to limit our nuclear capabilities. Once again, Germany has insisted that India and Pakistan sign the treaty. Meanwhile, the five nuclear powers have guaranteed that they would not use their weapons against countries who do not have them. Thus this club is leaving no stone unturned in its attempt to create the proper atmosphere for the 17 April meeting in New York. The fundamental question is why they are so intent on extending the treaty unconditionally. The world has undergone a sea change since the treaty was formulated 25 years ago. Despite the trumpeting of the existence of a unipolar world, many Third World countries have advanced significantly, and now they are in a position to challenge the hegemony of the great powers. It cannot be asserted either, however, that during the intervening period the nuclear powers did not take undue advantage of their position. Under such a situation, on what grounds can the Third World countries rely on assurances by the nuclear powers?

Giving assurances that they would not use nuclear weapons against those who do not have them is not enough. The very fact that they have those weapons puts them in an advantageous position. Why should there be such rationing of this technology capable of destroying the world? We and other developing countries demand that the nuclear powers bind themselves with the pledge to gradually destroy their nuclear arsenals. Only then will the treaty make some sense. Where else is the justification behind sermonizing on non-violence and disarmament only to the countries without nuclear weapons? A former bureaucrat, T. N. Dharm, has stated clearly that China remains a nuclear threat to India. If countries like India expect some solid and tangible guarantees from the nuclear powers, their demand is fully justified. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has no constructive policy of its own. Even after reaching the United States, Benazir could not forget her complex about India. Instead of openly opposing the treaty, she said Pakistan would sign the treaty only if India did. This statement betrays the hollowness of her slogan for regional non-proliferation. It is essential, therefore, that India maintain its position, firmly and resolutely. Only then can the correct approach be made toward keeping the world free of nuclear hazards.

Editorial Cites 'Hypocrisy' in Bhutto Statements

BK1104131095 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 11 Apr 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Atoms of hypocrisy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto's articulation of her Weltanschauung [preceding word published in italics] in Washington and elsewhere in the US lends credence to the adage: Hypocrisy is the homage that vice pays to virtue. How else can one explain her effort to project Pakistan as a moderate Islamic nation when her Government is unable to stem the violence and mayhem begot by bigotry; her desperate essay to impress the Americans of her country's anti-terrorism and anti-narcotic policies when it has been established beyond doubt that Pakistan is the epicentre of international drug trafficking often abetted by official sanction, and that her Government is the unapologetic sponsor of cross-border terrorism in the Kashmir Valley? With a docile audience on Capitol Hill and at the State Department, admittedly enamoured by her Western education and liberal outlook despite her "Islamic spiritualism", Ms Bhutto could have got away with a great deal if she were not caught literally with her hand in the nuclear till. The hypocrisy of Pakistan's commitment to nonproliferation stood exposed following the Washington Post's [preceding two words published in italics] disclosure of a clandestine plutonium reactor being built at Khushab in West Punjab. The revelation about this reactor capable of producing fissile material for nuclear weapons has not only undermined the combined calibrations of the visiting Prime Minister and the Clinton Administration to lift the Pressler sanctions against Pakistan, but has once again opened a Pandora's box called the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

The I-told-you-so response of the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, to the Khushab discovery, is eminently suitable for the occasion. India has time and again cautioned, among other things, against the inadequate safeguards of the NPT to prevent pilferation of nuclear weapons technology and capability from weapon powers to third countries—in this instance from China to Pakistan. The fact that the US Administration was not unaware of the exchange of atoms, in a manner of speaking, between Islamabad and Beijing and its declared inability to prevent the same makes mockery of the US efforts to end horizontal proliferation, and on that pretext perpetuate a flawed regime through unconditional and indefinite extension. But even more pathetic and probably much more disquieting is the Pakistan Prime Minister's own ignorance of her country's nuclear programme. The fact that Ms Bhutto, after initially denying the existence of the Khushab rector, acknowledged it only after she examined the material put together by the Post, [preceding word published in italics] clearly indicates that Pakistan's nuclear programme is beyond the realm of the elected Government. If the command and control of the weapon-programme is vested in the parallel Pakistani Establishment consisting of the Army and the feudal oligarchy, what credibility does Ms Bhutto's blueprints of international and regional regimes have that they entail India's participation?

Reaction to Admission of New Reactor in Pakistan

Editorial Views 'Threat'

BK1204090695 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Apr 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Renewed Threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's first official comment on Ms Benazir Bhutto's admission regarding the new plutonium production reactor at Khushab in Pakistan is as it should be. Mr Pranab Mukherjee's observation that it had confirmed India's doubts about the NPT's [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] ability to check the clandestine transfer of nuclear technology is significant not merely because the non-aligned nations are shortly assembling in New York—a week before the NPT extension conference—to formulate their stand on the proposed unconditional and indefinite extension of the treaty, but also in view of the official Afghan charge that Pakistan may have diverted some of the Scud missile-launchers from the Mujahideen factions for use in its nuclear programme. Ms Bhutto's initial dithering on the existence of the reactor and her subsequent admission under official prodding tend to confirm the widespread impression that the Pakistani nuclear programme is under military control and Ms Bhutto is not part of the decision-making hierarchy. She was either ignorant or deliberately attempting to throw a red herring when she linked the plutonium production reactor at Khushab with the Chinese nuclear power plant being constructed at Chashma. The latter is a light water reactor using slightly enriched uranium, and has nothing to do with the plutonium production reactor at Khushab. Ms Bhutto's claim that Pakistan lacked the capability to reprocess the fuel cannot be taken seriously.

All available information indicates that the new laboratories at PINSTECH [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] are already extracting plutonium on a small scale. That Pakistan received 90 percent of the documentation on the separation plant and 70-80 percent of the equipment for it from western Europe is well-documented in the literature on proliferation. In the past two decades Pakistan has clandestinely procured material, equipment and technology from the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Britain and Italy. Pakistan-China transactions on nuclear technology have been mentioned in successive U.S. administration reports to Congress on the progress of non-proliferation in South Asia. With a view to obtaining billions of dollars of military equipment Pakistan promised the U.S. administration and Congress that it would not exceed the limits set by the Pressler amendment, but then deliberately breached the commitment. Clandestine transfer of nuclear technology, materials and equipment has taken place from nuclear weapon powers to a number of countries, including Iraq. The American administration, its Congress as also its media will do well to remember that while there is no guarantee that Ms Benazir Bhutto, with her pretensions to moderate Islam, will continue in office, the nuclear capabilities acquired largely clandestinely by Pakistan will pose a threat to this region on a long-term basis.

Seen as 'Disquieting'

BK1204124495 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over the years, Pakistan's nuclear-weapon capabilities and ambitions have been growing. The American media have carried several convincing reports on how Pakistan has been pursuing a weapon-oriented nuclear program. The American interest in the program arises primarily from the fact that nuclear nonproliferation is one of the main objectives of the administration's policy. The news reports are well-documented and Pakistan has found it hard to refute them.

For India, such developments in the neighborhood are definitely a matter of concern. The security implications of Pakistan's program for which assistance has been available from a nuclear power, like China, cannot be underestimated. Although Pakistan has not carried out a nuclear explosion, it is generally believed that it has assembled a few atom bombs. Reports quoting United States intelligence sources say that Pakistan is in possession of about 10 nuclear bombs. In this context, the report about another nuclear facility being constructed in that country, which can produce bomb-making plutonium, is disquieting.

The report carried by THE WASHINGTON POST coincided with the start of Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States. It said that Islamabad is quietly constructing a nuclear reactor which can produce substantial quantities of weapon-grade plutonium. The reactor is being constructed at Khushab in Punjab Province. Understandably, when the issue came up during Ms. Bhutto's interview with THE WASHINGTON POST, she was reluctant to confirm it. After initially expressing doubts about the existence of the reactor, she consulted materials prepared by her staff and said the project is just a small reactor for experimental purpose. She tried to minimize its significance by stating that it was tied to a nuclear power plant supplied by China. The Pakistan prime minister also tried to make out that there was no risk of plutonium being extracted since Pakistan did not have reprocessing facility to separate it from the spent fuel. The manner in which Ms. Bhutto dealt with the subject in the interview has raised questions whether her government has control over the nuclear program which is being run by the military.

India's External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who had discussions on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and other issues with the European Union leaders in Paris recently, expressed concern over the latest evidence of Pakistan's nuclear program when he addressed a press conference on return to New Delhi. He said that it confirms our apprehension that the NPT has failed to check the clandestine transfer of nuclear technology to nonnuclear states. Mr. Mukherjee had briefed the European Union on India's objections to the discriminatory nature of the NPT and opposed its extension. For nuclear-weapon powers, the extension of NPT for an indefinite period is a main objective of policy. Of course, as a matter of policy, India has decided to confine the use of nuclear energy for purely peaceful purposes. To expect India to give up the nuclear option in disregard of the developments in the neighborhood would be unrealistic nor would it be right to equate India with Pakistan on the nuclear issue since the purposes of the two programs are entirely different. Ms. Bhutto's argument that Pakistan could not be expected to give up its program since India maintained its own nuclear program ignores the basic difference between the two programs. Washington reports had suggested that the Clinton administration seems to be keen on making a one-time exception of the Pressler Amendment to accommodate Pakistan's request for military and civilian assistance. It has to be seen whether the disturbing evidence of Pakistan's fresh attempts to secure plutonium for making bigger bombs would induce a rethinking in the U.S. Administration. Among those urging the U.S. Government not to bypass the Pressler Amendment is Senator Larry Pressler himself. He has underlined the risk to regional security if Pakistan's buildup of nuclear-weapon capacity is overlooked.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on U.S. 'Adventurism'

LD1104122995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened a new building for the huge Astan-e Qods-e Razavi [Shrine of Imam Rida, eighth Shi'i imam] library this morning. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This complex can play a significant role in the materialization of the goals of the Islamic revolution and help the implementation of what the wise and honorable leader of Islamic revolution has described as—the creation of a new civilization.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is this very claim to being modern and the specific and unique qualities in Iran's past civilizations that make the world arrogance and America hostile towards the Islamic revolution. Therefore, it is our duty to prepare the grounds for the materialization of this supreme ideal.

The president described the significance of the role of Velayat-e Faqih [the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] as an important factor for the construction of a new civilization in the current era and said: The fight against tyranny and opposition to the worst kind of aggression and oppression are considered as the richest ingredients of Velayat and Islamic sincerity. It is the people's role, participation, and support that makes [our] government a popular one, and this is unprecedented in the history of mankind. These very factors help enhance our ability, stability, and unique values and also help us build the foundations of a supreme civilization, which has been described as new by the leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for the creation of a new culture alongside this new civilization and said: America is terrified of the existing realities in Iran and the process of the country's development. It knows that banning and economic sanctions do not work because Iran has become self-sufficient and can independently meet its domestic needs.

America is not afraid of slogans and chants; however, it is the creation of a new civilization that has made it terrified. Bearing in mind the geographical situation of Iran in the world, no threat or conspiracy can weaken and defeat Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: We do not looking forward to U.S. nuisance and adventurism. We believe that such actions and adventurism have been detrimental to themselves [Americans], and continue to be so.

The president added: Through the implementation of the second plan, we can now easily access the summit of progress and civilization. Of course the value of this civilization depends on how cultural principles are safeguarded and strengthened. The bright flames created by the culture of self-sacrifice and martyrdom in this country—which is kept alight by the belief and sincerity of the martyrs' families, the self-sacrifice of the war-disabled and former prisoners of war—cannot be put out. Islam will become widespread through Iran, the school of Velayat and belief in God and the innocent members of the prophet's household, some of whom have unfortunately remained unknown. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Receives Brunei's Foreign Minister

LD1104123495 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [10 April] night in a meeting with the visiting Bruneian Foreign Minister Mohammed Bolkiah, called for further expansion of relations between the two countries' authorities.

Considering the existing areas of cooperation between the two countries, Rafsanjani also called for further strengthening of relations between Iran and Brunei within the framework of a joint commission particularly in the political, economic and trade fields.

In the meeting, Bolkiah conveyed the warm regards of the Brunei's sultan to President Rafsanjani.

Bolkiah also informed Rafsanjani on the earlier talks between the officials of the two countries in the fields of establishment of the joint commission, expansion of economic and trade relations between the two sides as well as the international cooperation and admissions of Bruneian students to Iranian universities.

Brunei's foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Monday for a 3-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart.

Joint Statement Urges More Ties

LD1204104995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of Brunei and the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the end of their talks in Tehran on ways of expanding cooperation in regional and international arenas, issued a joint statement stressing the need for upgrading bilateral cooperation.

In this statement, the two sides have described as excellent the present state of political ties between the two countries and have reaffirmed the need to expand economic cooperation. The statement also underlines the need for the exchange of ideas on ways of expanding bilateral cooperation in the region and on the international arena.

Short training courses in Iran for Brunei's diplomats and the formation of a joint commission at the level of foreign ministers were some of the main agreements reached by the two countries. It was decided also that the first joint commission should be convened in Brunei before the end of the current year.

Furthermore, the foreign ministers of Iran and Brunei signed a memorandum of understanding on abolishing diplomatic and service visas.

Envoy Kharrazi Addresses UN on Nuclear Weapons

LD1204103895 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, April 12, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said that the continued production, stockpiling and testing of nuclear weapons by nuclear powers endangers the security of non-nuclear weapon states.

He made the remark in the general meeting of the Security Council Tuesday [11 April] which discussed the subject of security of the entire international community.

Kharrazi stressed that the only effective security assurance against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons lies in the total elimination of such weapons.

He also expressed regret that not only the nuclear states have refused to take a program of action for nuclear disarmament within a time-bound framework and a target date, but they have chosen not to finalize a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Kharrazi further pointed to the considered view of the non-nuclear weapon state parties to NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] that pending the achievement of a universal nuclear disarmament, effective measures should be taken to ensure the security of these states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. He said that such assurances must be in the form of a negotiated, legally binding international instrument.

He added that a protocol embodying legally-binding nuclear security assurances should be annexed to the NPT, saying that anything short of that would not allay the concerns of non-nuclear states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Underlining that any act of aggression involving the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitues a threat to international peace and security, he said that it is incumbent upon the Security Council to take immediate measures under the provisions of Chapter Seven of the Charter in the event of an aggression with nuclear weapons or the threat of such aggression against a non-nuclear state party to NPT.

These measures should include action on the part of the members of the United Nations, particularly the nuclear weapon states, individually or collectively to suppress aggression, he continued.

Besides providing technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance to the victims of an act of aggression with nuclear weapons, the representative further remarked, the Security Council should be prepared to use all necessary means in defence of the victims in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

He regretted that the draft resolution before the council, while inviting member states to act in case of use of nuclear weapons in the form of positive security assurances, lacked a clear reference to the core of the problem which is the negative security assurances.

Kharrazi stated that the Security Council should stress a prior determination that threat or attack by nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security and compile a trigger mechanism to ensure Security Council response to threats or attacks by nuclear weapons.

The Iranian envoy also noted that the non-nuclear weapon states have renounced nuclear option in return for fulfillment of commitments on the part of the nuclear weapon states including provisions of negative security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states through an international legally binding instrument.

Saying that the nuclear weapon states should uphold their commitments so that NPT and non-proliferation regime can be strengthened, he expressed assurance that it would help create an atmosphere conducive to total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Kharrazi concluded by remarking that Iran, as an original signatory of NPT and as a party who has fully complied with all its obligations under the NPT and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is commited to act in tandem with other peace-loving countries in this regard.

Speaker Addresses Iranians Living in Kuwait

NC1104060695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, who is leading a delegation to Kuwait, last night met Iranians living in Kuwait. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Continuing his meetings in Kuwait, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met Iranians living there and stressed that preserving the Islamic Revolution's gains abroad is a heavy responsibility that rests on the shoulders of Iranians abroad. He added: We expect you, Iranians abroad, to strive to safeguard the prestige of the Islamic Republic's system and to act on the basis of the Islamic Revolution's criteria.

Referring to efforts by America and by some arrogant powers to confront the Islamic Revolution, the Majles speaker said: Despite the extensive and malicious propaganda by foreigners, the strong bond between the nation and the leadership of the Islamic Republic has thwarted this propaganda, and the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution remain steadfast.

Stressing the country's economic progress, he added: The extent of reconstruction projects in the country is unprecedented; never has so much reconstruction taken place so quickly. This has been made possible by the efforts of officials and your devotion and assistance, dear nation.

The Majles speaker will leave Kuwait for Khartoum today as planned.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait. [end recording]

Speaker's Sudan Visit, 'Plots' by 'Arrogance' Discussed

NC1204073095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to an invitation by the speaker of Sudan's national parliament, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in the Sudanese capital Khartoum yesterday. The visit by the high-ranking Iranian delegation to Sudan is important, since both countries are facing similar political conditions and cooperation between them is considered to be a basic need.

Iran and Sudan are two countries ruled by a political system that is inspired by orthodox Islam. Since this model negates dependence on dominating powers and aims to make Muslim nations more alert in a bid to increase unity among the Islamic ummah and defend its aspirations, it faces reaction by the arrogant powers.

The sensitive and strategic position of Iran in southwest Asia and of Sudan in the heart of Africa has granted these two countries the special capability of carrying out their Islamic mission in two major areas in the world of Islam. This geopolitical significance has aroused the sensitivity of the dominating powers over these two countries' demand for independence, and this is why they resort to various pretexts under various labels to hatch plots to weaken the political systems in Tehran and Khartoum.

World arrogance has hatched many military, political, and economic plots to confront the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Islamic government in Sudan. But all these plots have met the resistance of the two countries' pious and Muslim peoples. By supporting the separatists in south Sudan, world arrogance is now trying to put pressure on Khartoum. But this plot too has met the resistance of Sudan's Armed Forces and its combating people. And undoubtedly the Islamic governments' support for Sudan is strengthening the position of this fraternal country.

In addition to the special political conditions that necessitate cooperation between Iran and Sudan the two Islamic countries also have many fields in which they can cooperate in the economic arena; it is hoped that the visit by our Majles speaker will play an effective role toward this end.

Envoy Previews Rafsanjani Trip to Georgia

LD1004082195 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze will soon sign an agreement for long-term legal, academic, cultural and educational cooperation, reported the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' here Monday.

The English-language paper quoted the Georgian ambassador to Tehran, Dzhemshid Giunashvili, as referring to the imminent visit to Georgia of President Rafsanjani as "a milestone in bilateral ties." President Rafsanjani is scheduled to pay an official three-day visit to India, starting April 17, which will be followed by a trip to Georgia.

"With the completion of the preliminary stage of Iran-Georgia relations, the time is now ripe for serious attempts to broaden the ties," said the ambassador. He added that in their upcoming meeting, the two presidents will discuss promotion of mutual relations , regional issues, transportation, commerce, as well as industrial and academic cooperation.

After 200 years, noted the ambassador, Georgia is now able to have cordial and serious economic, political and cultural relations with Iran and other countries. There are many countries in the region with which Georgia wished to have relations, stressed Giunashvili adding that the said countries had certain interests that should not be overlooked. For instance, he explained, Russia has interests which have historical roots, and Iran too, has serious regional interests such as transportation and the large-scale international project of Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railway. The ambassador pointed out that the railway was of paramount importance "for it links the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf facilitating global commerce." He added that Iran displayed its concern for peace and stability in the Caucasia and Transcaucasia through the project.

As for the international relations of Georgia, Giunashvili said that his respective country wished to improve its economic condition and for this purpose it is establishing ties with different countries. Referring to Shevardnadze's various foreign visits as proof of Georgia's propensity to have relations with different countries, the ambassador added, "Georgia has friendly relations with Iran, regional neighbors and the West."

He said the skirmishes between Georgia and Abkhazia should not be taken as ethnic or religious conflict. "To the contrary, the differences are political and are spurred by a series of foreign and domestic factors." Noting that Abkhazia is part of Georgia, Giunashvili laid down the principal conditions for negotiation with Abkhazia as respect for Georgia's territorial integrity and border demarcations.

Rafsanjani Inaugurates 3d Phase of Petrochemical Complex

LD0804161195 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurating the third phase of the Imam Khomeyni petrochemical complex on Saturday, called it "a magnificant day for petrochemical industry".

Saying that "petrochemical personnel have given the country a valuable present," he added, "by putting into operation the 175,000 tons p.v.c unit, of which every ton is worth dollars 1,100 on the market, we would be saving dollars 200 millions in foreign exchange per year."

Foreign currencies needs by most units have declined to one fifth and in some cases to zero, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

The president thanked the German Government and experts for their cooperation in the project.

Before the president's speech, Oil Minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i presented a report on Iran's progress in petrochemical industry and announced that by the end of second development plan (1995-2000), the petrochemical production will reach 15 million tons, which, compared to 700,000 tons in 1988, shows a remarkable growth.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i voiced hope that in the current year, the petrochemical production would reach nine million tons with the putting into operation of six petrochemical units in Tabriz, Orumiyeh and Khorasan province.

Petroleum Official on Fuel Prices, Role of OPEC

NC0704204095 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 4 Apr 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Javad Yarjani, the Petroleum Ministry's OPEC affairs chief, by unidentified economic affairs correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] An increase in the price of oil has been envisioned in the current year, the Petroleum Ministry's OPEC affairs chief Yarjani told our correspondent. He said: Oil prices depend on various factors, including the OPEC and non-OPEC production ceilings. If non-OPEC production does not increase in 1995, oil prices will improve.

He added: Among other factors that affect oil prices are the rate of economic growth in industrial countries. If, as in 1994, economic growth continues in these countries, the demand for oil will increase and oil prices will subsequently rise.

He said the management of oil reserves in industrial countries also affects oil prices, stating: If bank interest rates fall (just as some European countries adopted this policy to prevent the depreciation of the dollar's value), the cost of storing oil in reservoirs will decrease and demand will rise. This will have a positive effect on international oil prices. Foreign exchange rate fluctuations could harm the economic growth of countries and thus reduce demand for oil.

He continued: Another important issue that considerably affects crude oil prices on world markets is whether Iraqi oil will enter the world market. When the Iraqi economic embargo is lifted, OPEC will convene an extraordinary session and will make decisions in this regard.

Yarjani said: Even though numerous factors affect oil prices and make it difficult to forecast oil prices precisely, by keeping particular factors in mind, prices of crude oil can be expected to rise in 1995.

Production Ceiling

Regarding the daily OPEC production ceiling for 1995, Yarjani said: Contrary to the thinking of the eighties, OPEC is not a cartel [preceding word in English], but an organization the members of which each pursue their own distinctive national interests. Until last year OPEC followed the market in such a way that industrial countries initially adopted decisions and OPEC adjusted itself accordingly. The experts did not consider this appropriate, and, this year, following prolonged discussions in OPEC's economic committee, it was agreed that the production ceiling should be specified for a period of one year. Thus, it was announced on the international oil market that henceforth the industrial countries must coordinate with OPEC.

He added: This new procedure and thinking is being tested in 1995 and will continue if it proves efficient.

Continuing, Yarjani stated: The increase in oil prices in past decades was not influenced by OPEC decisions. But this does not mean OPEC did not play a role in fixing oil prices. The greater OPEC's share in supplying energy to the world, the greater its role in fixing prices.

He elaborated: OPEC should be an organization enjoying the best possible circumstances, to bring oil prices to a realistic level. It should not be a hindrance to world economic growth and should not prevent consumers from using other forms of energy.

Yarjani stated that the exit of Ecuador from OPEC and rumors of Gabon following suit does not mean that all the members will follow en masse. He said: Except for some countries with low production and that are outside the Persian Gulf region, the other OPEC members have very high levels of production and perceive their interests in continuing OPEC membership. Observers believe the chances of Qatar, a small country with low oil production, withdrawing from OPEC are virtually nonexistent.

On the role of international stock markets in oil price fluctuations and the presence of OPEC countries on these markets, Yarjani said: This issue has very complex dimensions, which are being discussed. But there is no reason that these procedures should always be successful. Many companies have suffered massive losses due to errors in their forecasts. This policy requires more intensive study, and, if it were to be implemented, there is no need for OPEC to emulate it. The oil- producing countries will adopt this policy in accordance with their own distinctive circumstances.

On the effects of levying taxes on fossil fuels by industrial countries, Yarjani said: Such taxes increase oil prices and this reduces the demand for fuel. Similarly, a reduction in demand will decrease the income of the oil-producing countries, except if economic prosperity is on a level that could neutralize the harm of the levying of such taxes.

He stated: To combat this situation, OPEC member countries consuming the products of industrial countries should collectively declare their opposition to such taxes.

Azeri Oil Company To Begin Talks With Tehran

LD1104104095 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, April 11, IRNA—The Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC) is hoping to start negotiations shortly with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for a swap arrangement for the export of Azeri oil.

Despite the exclusion of NIOC as an official partner in a U.S.- led consortium to develop three Azeri offshore fields, AIOC President Terence Adams says Iran remains very important to the dlrs. 8 billion deal and export options are certily not closed.

He told an oil conference in London that the operating company managing the development most immediately wanted to sign contracts for swaps of 80,000 barrels per day (bdp). Production from the Chirag, Azeri and Gunashli fields is due to start in mid-1996. The problem of export alternatives was that the existing facilities north through Russia were fully utilized, but the option through Iran remained open." [quotation mark as received]

In a separate interview with IRNA, he said that discussions with NIOC would start in two weeks and centered upon shipping oil to the Iranian Caspian Sea port, Bandar-e Anzali, for onward delivery to Tabriz refinery in a swap arrangement.

He spoke of the intense political pressure from the U.S. Government to exclude Iran from the international consortium, in which American oil firms have a combined 44 percent stake, with warnings that the deal would face financial difficulties.

The latest U.S. addition to the consortium, Exxon, was said to have had to pay a 400 percent premium more than other members to join. The Turkish petroleum company was understood to be given the same condition to increase its share by 5 percent.

Adams outlined at the conference on future oil in 2005 that production plans were being geared up to 200,000 bpd, the maximum that could be accommodated by refineries in the region.

He reckoned it would be two year before the contentious issue of a pipeline would have to be resolved to export Azeri oil, but again spoke of financial pressure ruling out an Iranian route, suggesting it would need the World Bank to reconsider the option.

Foreign Firms To Help Build Karun-4 Dam

LD0604164595 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 6, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday inaugurated construction work for the Karun-4 hydroelectric dam at Gudar Landar, 160 kms northeast of this southwestern provincial capital.

The dam is expected be ready by the end of the calendar year, 1377 (1998) would cost rls. [rials] 2,866 billion plus dlrs. [dollars] 1,520 million in foreign exchange.

Japan has granted a long-term loan of 120 billion yen for building the dam in three instalments of which Iran has already received the first instalments of 38 billion yen.

As per the agreement Japan is to soon give 50 billion yen as the second installment of said loan.

Japanese, Korean and Austrian companies will participate in building the dam, but, 55 percent of the construction operation of Karun-4 dam will be carried out by Iranian experts.

The hydroelectric dam designed to produce 3,700 million kilowatts of electricity annually will boost the country's supply power supply by five percent.

PVC Plant at Bandar Emam To Quadruple Production

LD0404181495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With the commissioning of the third phase of the Bandar Emam Petrochemical Complex, the production of PVC will quadruple soon and the requirements of 1,000 factories in the country will be met.

The first phase of the complex, including liquified gas production units, was commissioned in 1369 [1990-91] and its second phase, including 11 units producing raw material for rubber and plastics, in 1373 [1994-5].

Regarding the complex, Mr. Rahgozar, deputy oil minister and managing director of the National Petrochemical Industries Company, says:

[Begin recording] [Rahgozar] The 175,000 tonne PVC unit at Bandar Emam Petrochemical Complex, which is about to be commissioned, will increase the country's PVC production capacity to 200,000 tonnes. That 200,000 tonnes will fully meet the country's PVC needs. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] How much did the unit cost and what will be the value of its products annually?

[Rahgozar] The cost of the Bandar Emam PVC unit was $185 million and 5 billion rials. Fortunately, we have now reached self- sufficiency as the price of PVC is rising fast in the world; it costs more than $1,000 [per tonne]. Its production brings an annual saving of about $175 million in foreign exchange. [end recording]

First Iron Ore Export Leaves Mine for Port

LD0804130295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country, which used to import vital metals, has now become an exporter of such metals. Our correspondent reports on the export of our country's first consignment of iron ore:

[Unidentified correspondent] Thanks to the inauguration of the Bafq-Bandar Abbas railroad, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become an exporter of iron ore. Nikkar-Esfahani, managing director of the Central Iron Ore Company said: The first consignment of our country's iron ore, weighing 70,000 tonnes, has been transferred from the Choghar mines in Bafq to the Imam Khomeyni jetty in Bandar Abbas. It will be exported within the next few days. He said: Turkey, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Pakistan are among the purchasers of Iran's iron ore. He added: We are planning to export 1 million tonnes of iron ore from the Choghar mines this year, a total which will increase as we develop the mines.

Nikkar-Esfahani added: Iron ore from the Choghar mines is exported only after domestic demands are met and while exports of this product cause no domestic shortage.

U.S. 'Misguided Judgements' Over Nuclear Plant Viewed

LD1204102095 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—The U.S. is raising a hue and cry (against Iran) to remedy the world's ailing public opinion and divert its attention away from its illegitimate acts, said the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' here Wednesday [12 April].

The English-language daily commented in its editorial on the recent statement of Head of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee Alfonse D'Amato who told CNN on Saturday that Israel should be encouraged to attack the Bushehr atomic energy plant in Iran.

To the discredit of the U.S. administartion, D'Amato's statements indicated the inability of the democratic White House to accept the internationally attested reality that Iran's procurement of nuclear technology was not aimed at destruction or warfare, but at the provision of greater comfort at home, the paper wrote.

Instances of similar misguided judgements by the U.S. have been repeatedly seen in the past, noted the daily adding that a prominent example of that was in April 1980 when democratic Carter administration terminated Irano-U.S. political relations and similarly the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

However, Iran proved more capable and has since maintained its roster of commercial allies whose will to cooperate with Iran has remained unwavering in the face of the U.S. ballyhoo, said the paper.

It noted that Iran has almost for two decades demonstrated that as an independent nation with particular political, economic and strategic conditions, it could be quite resourceful, and that in a world of ample choices, it could easily acquire the support structure that enabled it to choose its own path and could fulfill its needs through the numerous global sources available to it.

Asking on the motive behind attacking Iran's atomic plant, the daily said if it is aimed at legetimizing Israel's crimes and aggressions, it would certainly fail to achieve the end.

The daily referred to the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has previously verified that Bushehr plant and its specifications were "by no means geared toward military purposes."

"Therefore, the incessant threats and other publicity motivated propaganda by the U.S., including exaggerated measures such as commercial and economic bans, accusations of human right's violations and the like, appear to be an attempt to whitewash the illegitimate foreign policy of the White House, as well as Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian lands.

"The current campaign of rhetoric against Iran, Iraq, China and other countries is failing to serve as a cover for the U.S's own violations of political and humanitarian norms," argued the paper, adding that this pandemonium is suited to the whims of the U.S. and used as a tool to serve its own ends.

Benefits of Talks With Armenia, Turkmenistan Seen

NC0604084695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministerial session of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Armenia is to be held in Tehran on Saturday [8 April] to discuss the expansion of economic, commercial, and political ties among the three countries.

After arriving in Tehran last night, the Armenian foreign minister spoke to our correspondent and pointed to the expanding relations between Tehran and Yerevan. Describing these relations as beneficial for regional stability and security, he said that discussions will be held on transport, energy, and trade during the Tehran talks.

Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, also spoke to our correspondent. Expressing satisfaction with the continuation of the cease-fire in the sensitive region of Karabakh and referring to the Islamic Republic's cooperation with the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan to solve this problem, he expressed the hope that the Karabakh problem will end through talks.

Commenting on the tripartite session of Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan as well as on regional cooperation, he said:

[Begin Va'ezi recording] We believe regional cooperation will help the regional countries to rapidly meet each other's needs both in political and economic aspects. Such cooperation helps to ensure security, tranquility, and stability in this sensitive area in the Caucasus.

We believe that the newly independent countries need tranquility more than anything so that they can also benefit from a strong economy that will help them to stand on their own two feet. Both the current tripartite cooperation among Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan and another upcoming tripartite session among Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan will cement the bilateral relations that started several years ago between the Islamic Republic of Iran and regional countries. [end recording]

Official on Bosnia, Double Standards of European Parliament

LD0804212795 Tehran IRNA in English 2113 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi in an interview with IRNA on Saturday offered his analysis on the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina and the statement of the European Parliament on Islamic Iran.

He said: "Unfortunately, in light of the repeated violation of the four-month ceasefire in various parts of Sarajevo, Bihac and other points by the Serbs and the occupation of more than 70 per cent of the Muslim lands the silence of the international community in relation to the hostility of the Serbs is unjustifiable."

In view of the approaching end of the ceasefire and its violation by the aggressor party there is no way for the Bosnians but to resort to legitimate means of defence, he said.

"With respect to the repeated rejection by the Serbs of peace plans the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the aggressor party should be pressured to discontinue all acts of hostility and vacate all occupied areas," said the spokesman.

Referring to the statement of the European Parliament on Iran, he said it was a continuation of the American propaganda against the Islamic Republic. He said every parliament could issue the likes of that statement against any country.

"If the European Parliament is really concerned about freedom of expression and political rights in the Islamic Republic it would do better to strengthen the current talks between its member countries and Islamic Republic, so that the two sides understand each other regarding the real conception of freedom and political rights," said Mohammadi.

He said while the European Parliament considers sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie's insulting of the beliefs of one billion Muslims as 'guarantee of freedom' and while it ignores the political and spiritual rights of the Muslim people of the world, it cannot but betray its political ambitions against Islam by issuing such statements.

He advised the European Parliament would do better to adopt policies independent of the United States, especially when it comes to a state like Iran whose policies are based on firm respect for the spiritual and material values of mankind.

Commentary Criticizes EU Decision on Rushdie Affair

LD1104140395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of the EU member states, who have gathered in Luxembourg in order to discuss the conflict between Spain and Canada, did not win an overwhelming solution. However they approved of France's proposal to guarantee the security of the apostate British writer, Salman Rushdie.

In this proposal, the Iranian Government had been called on to officially announce that the death verdict on Salman Rushdie is nullified.

Head of the committee defending Salman Rushdie, Miss Frances De Souza, has said in this regard: At this stage we do not speak of Salman Rushdie's death verdict to be nullified, rather we ask the Iranian Government to officially announce that the verdict will not be (?effected).

Such a statement by Miss De Souza indicates that after the passage of six years the Western countries are gradually admitting that the issue of the religious verdict has nothing to do with the performance of the governments. But that the EU's insistence on asking the Iranian Government to officially announce that the death verdict of Salman Rushdie will not be executed seems illogical, for the Government of Iran has at no stage announced that it would execute this verdict, rather the issue of the execution of Salman Rushdie, as an apostate who has insulted the beliefs of over one billion Muslims, is a religious duty of every faithful Muslim and anyone who can is obliged to carry out the task.

The world Muslims understand this issue, belief-wise. However, non-Muslims are not familiar with this verdict and the reasons why such a verdict has been issued, so they cannot understand the necessity of its execution. Therefore, the French Government's proposal, aimed at creating a ground for mutual understanding, would be interpreted as positive. (?But) this is not the first time that the Iranian Government is being asked to nullify the verdict. But in the case of Iran's giving guarantee that it will not execute such a verdict, one should say that such an issue has never been and still is not mooted.

During the past six years the Iranian Government has repeatedly stressed the reality that the issue of Imam Khomeyni's verdict on the death of Salman Rushdie is unchangeable, constant, and an obligation to all world Muslims. Therefore, instead of deceitful propaganda on defending Salman Rushdie's freedom of belief, the EU had better accept this reality that one cannot insult the beliefs of one billion human beings in the name of defending the freedom of thoughts.

Scope of ASEAN-ECO Cooperation Examined

NC1004121495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, will arrive in Tehran today. He will meet officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] secretary general to explore ways and means to strengthen and expand ASEAN-ECO cooperation.

Political analysts believe the ASEAN secretary general's visit to Tehran could infuse new dynamism in the regional cooperation between ECO and ASEAN and on a broader level, among the Asian countries. Numerous meetings were held between the heads of these two organizations, the most important of which was the visit by our president to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

It appears that the Asian countries, especially the members of the two important regional organizations ECO and ASEAN, realize that in the new international circumstances one of the most reliable means of broadening regional cooperation is to find ways to do so. [sentence as heard]

Based on the assessments so far, 50 percent of the growth of international markets pertains to Asian countries. This is indicative of a massive revolution in the world's economy and is evidence that the next century will be the Asian century and this region will be transformed into an international economic and political center of gravity.

Broadening bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the regional countries is necessary for this to happen quickly. In view of its strategic location and the important resources at its disposal, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated its willingness to expand such cooperation. The construction of the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railroad has proved that Iran will spare no effort in this regard.

Iran's geographical position has made it possible for Iran to be a reliable passageway for the transit [preceding word in English] of goods to Central Asia and Europe. This characteristic has enabled Iran to carve a special niche in the diplomacy [preceding word in English] of regional cooperation among Asian countries. It appears that the circumstances exist to transform Asia into an important economic pole internationally, circumstances such as a regional mode of thought, political understanding, consistent effort, and, in cases, selflessness, which are considered the necessary prerequisites for this purpose.

Commentary Predicts End to Dollar's Rule

LD0804152795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The downward trend of the rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar against the Japanese yen and the German mark—two reputable major foreign currencies—continues such that on Friday each dollar was being exchanged for only 83.65 yen, its lowest rate in the past half century. The trend, which has gradually become critical, has brought forth comments, particularly by America's constant allies, to the effect that it has undermined the foundations of the international rule of the dollar established since the Second World War. Most of those comments were stressing the need for a reform of the world monetary system and a return to a permanent gold based system. Even the head of the U.S. monetary council has expressed his acquiescence in this regard.

Analysts believe that there is no other way to end the international monetary crisis and chaos but to create a new system for stabilizing foreign currency prices. That is because those engaged in economic activities must be able to plan their future and under the present strongly fluctuating circumstances that is not possible.

According to monetary experts the floating foreign currency system—which was imposed on the international market on the orders of the U.S. President Richard Nixon by cutting the link between the U.S. dollar and gold—is no longer effective. In the past decades that system caused the people throughout the world to count on the dollar for their deposits and a large demand was created for the dollar. Whereas now it has become clear that the dollar is not the same as gold and its over issue has caused its severe reduction in its rate of exchange, particularly against the strong Japanese and German currencies. The German economics minister believes that to be totally related to the budgetary policies of the U.S. Administration, its' chronic budget deficit, and the unlimited sale of government bonds. That was why efforts by the Japanese and European central banks to stem the dollar rate failed to do so.

Although the fall of the American dollar will strengthen that country's exports and reduce its trade balance deficit, the weak dollar on the one hand will increase import prices and the rate of inflation and on the other will reduce the attraction of that country's share market and government bonds, and will direct foreign investors to change their capitals into reputable world currencies. Also, following the continual fall of the dollar, most countries—particularly developing communities—are seeking to price their goods on the basis of other currencies or a basket of other currencies. In that framework, the OPEC secretary general, too, will be seeking a solution to prevent the reduction of the purchase power of the oil revenue and will be starting talks with its members.

All those developments speak of the reality that the rule of the dollar has ended after half a century and America must tolerate new partners, at least in monetary domination over the world.

Nepal

Editorial on Hillary Clinton Visit, U.S. Ties

BK1104143295 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Fillip to Nepal-U.S. Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nepalese have attached high importance to U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit, which is expected to give a fillip to further strengthening the bond of friendship existing between Nepal and the United States of America. A renowned advocate of women and children's welfare, Mrs. Clinton has her own credentials besides being generally perceived as an emissary of the American President, Mr. Bill Clinton. The First Lady is currently on a 12-day tour of South Asia to acquire a first-hand knowledge about the region, including Nepal. She visited Pakistan and India before starting her tour of Nepal that ends today. The First Lady was received in audience by Their Majesties the King and Queen after her arrival to a warm welcome by Her Majesty the Queen. Her meetings with the Prime Minister and prominent women from various walks of life and visits to a health clinic and handicraft show attest to the interest of the First Lady in Nepal and vice versa. Mrs. Clinton, who heads the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, distributed maternity kits at the health clinic and acquired information about the services being rendered there.

Besides, Mrs. Clinton, a champion of women's rights and children's health, has been a source of inspiration for all in Nepal when she underlined the need for improvements in the family life of women. Her devotion to family, work, and public service has been manifest on different occasions when Mrs. Clinton advocated the need "to find the right balance in our lives." While women worldwide suffer on account of high mortality, Nepal offers even grimmer scenario. The status of Nepalese children is no better. In this regard, her sojourn, despite being brief, will help spur the activities geared towards alleviating the woes of women and children in this poor corner of the world, including Nepal. But then related organisations and individuals should be able to learn and dedicate themselves for the causes that the First Lady has been strongly espousing.

This apart, Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, will take back home a fond memory of Nepal. At the same time, such a high level visit of the First Lady will also leave behind lasting impression on Nepal.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister on Talks With U.S. Official

BK1204083295 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 12 Apr 95 p 4

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington—The Foreign Secretary, Najmuddin A. Sheikh last night said that American policy and opinion-makers were now more conscious of the fact that Pressler amendment was counterproductive to the objectives for which it was enacted.

Briefing newsmen about his meeting with acting US Secretary of State [title as published], Peter Tarnoff, Najmuddin Sheikh said that Pakistan-US relations now seem to be moving away from hiatus created by Pressler law. Now, he said, there was a definite desire on both sides to develop mutual relationship, which in itself was an outcome of greater understanding of Pakistan's point of view.

Najmuddin Sheikh said that among other issues, the current situation in Afghanistan also came up for discussion during his meeting with Peter Tarnoff. He said that both Pakistan and the United States desired peace and stability in the strife-torn country. However, he added, neither side had any formula to establish peace in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan fully supported the United Nations efforts to establish a transitory interim council in Afghanistan, but, with nearly one-third of the country under the new force of 'talebans', it had become difficult to implement this scheme.

He said he was not optimistic of the efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Najmuddin Sheikh strongly refuted the impression that Pakistan Talebans were Pakistan's creation. [sentence as published] He said the state department officials knew fully well as to how the Talebans emerged as a reaction against the repressive practices of the local Afghan commanders and had never suspected Pakistan as being involved.

Minister Discusses U.S. 'Suggestion' on Security

BK1104122895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Apr 95 p 16

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore (APP)—The Minister of State for Finance Makhdum Shahabuddin Monday categorically said that Pakistan will not accept any interference in its internal affairs and added the defence budget will not be slashed at any cost.

Talking to newsmen here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry the minister said that there was suggestion to Pakistan by Americans to slash defence budget, but it was rejected on the ground that due to strategic reasons Pakistan could not do so.

The Minister said that during his last visit to Washington, he also told the American officials that the suggestion of slashing the defence budget should also be given to India and if she will be ready then Pakistan could think on this proposal. He said reducing defence budget was only a proposal from America and it could not be demanded in any case as Pakistan would not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs.

Replying to a queston about bowing down before IMF regarding fiscal policies of the country, the Minister said that it was totally wrong.

He said that due to damage caused to crops like cotton, chillies, potato, tomato and onion the country has to relay on import of these important commodities and a huge amount of foreign exchange has to be spent in this regard.

Editorial Advocates Security Over U.S. Interests

BK1204062595 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 12 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Nasrullah's warning"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Veteran politician, Nawahzada Nasrulla Khan, in a statement Monday [10 April] said that after India equipped its forces with Prithvi missiles it has become imperative for Pakistan to maintain its defensive nuclear capability. He explained that before this development, Pak nuclear programme was primarily for energy generation, but now atomic technology is the only answer to the formidable military prowess of New Delhi. He was of the opinion that India introduced these short range missiles at the time of Benazir's US visit with a view to blackmailing America into retaining the discriminatory clauses of Pressler Amendment. It has told US that it would increase the number of missiles if the Amendment was scraped. Nasrullah's statement deserves serious consideration since he is a part of the ruling Coalition and should have no desire to embarrass the government. His comments should be considered in the context of the decision of the rulers to cap our nuclear programme; to allow unintrusive inspection of our facilities by Chakwal monitoring station, to ease Pakistan into US network of non-proliferation and to lease or gift land to dubious foreign interests in Gwadar. All these factors suggest a degree of complacency on the part of Islamabad with regard to the crucial importance of atomic deterrent in our defence strategy as well as to the gravity of Indian designs against Pakistan. Time was when our rulers felt that nuclear ambiguity was the most effective strategy. It was then emphasised that our programme was meant for the production of energy. With the advantage of hindsight, one can see that it was a patently wrong approach. In the first place Pakistan has no need to be apologetic about its atomic capability; it has a hostile neighbour with one of the largest conventional armies as well as a formidable nuclear arsenal and batteries of sophisticated missiles. Possession of atomic weapons is the condition of our survival and we have legal and moral right to continue to acquire these weapons. Our position in its respect is simple, sound and based on common sense. If you cannot defeat the invader, make aggression prohibitively costly.

The situation as far as the military imbalance in the sub-continent and the vulnerability of Pakistani position has not changed since 1970. The arrival of Prithvis has only added a sense of urgency to the problem this country is facing in maintaining an effective deterrent against possible aggression. Whatever US global and regional aims might be, we have our own strategic and security concerns which cannot be subservient to Washington's interests.

Editorial Skeptical of U.S. Nuclear Assurances

BK1104062695 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 8 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Old Hunters Bring the New Trap"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Clinton has pledged that nuclear weapons will not be used against countries which do not have the nuclear weapons and those which express the desire not to acquire them. The assurance was conveyed in a statement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The secretary of state said that China, Russia, Britain, and France will also provide similar assurances. In a prepared statement, Christopher said that a presidential proclamation in this regard will be made later. President Clinton also reaffirmed the U.S. pledge to help a non-nuclear state in the event of a nuclear attack or a threat against it.

The indirect assurance by the U.S. President has come at a time when a conference on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is going to be held in New York. Some countries, which had earlier signed the agreement, are now refusing to sign it again arguing that the nuclear states are pursuing a discriminatory policy toward some countries. Therefore, Libya has announced that it will not sign the treaty again until Israel signs it as well. Similarly, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has refused to sign the treaty without Israel signing it.

The U.S. secretary of state's assurance on behalf of his President is not only inadequate; it does not provide a non-nuclear country a guarantee of protection and defense in case of an attack by a nuclear power. It is a distinct reality that besides the United States, Russia, China, and France, the countries of India, Israel, South Africa, and North Korea have successfully gained access to the sophisticated nuclear technology. According to authoritative and reliable sources, India and Israel have dozens of nuclear bombs too. Pakistan cannot trust the U.S. assurances because it has the bitter experience of U.S. treachery during India's naked aggression against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 despite its being a U.S. ally under the Central Treaty Organization and Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Who is going to give the guarantee on behalf of the five nuclear countries, which includes the United States, that Israel, South Africa, and India will not apply their nuclear strength against any of their neighbors. If all these countries and the United States together failed to persuade India and Israel to open up their nuclear installations to inspection by experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency then how will they prevent India and Israel from attacking a weaker neighbor—such as Pakistan in the case of India and Arab countries in the case of Israel? In fact, there is a vast contradiction in the words and deeds of the United States and its Western allies on this issue. The United States and other Western countries did not take into account Israel's nuclear buildup. However, when Iraq made a little progress in this sphere, then Israel launched an air attack and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear installations. A number of Iraqi nuclear scientists were assassinated during their foreign trips.

The Pressler Amendment was used against Pakistan in a very unfair and prejudicial manner to end its nuclear program. Despite the acknowledgement by senior U.S. officials that the amendment has failed to achieve the desired objective and it did not help check the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia, the restriction on the U.S. military and economic aid to Pakistan still continues. India is manufacturing long-range missiles, however, it is not being checked, while Pakistan is being asked to completely wind up its nuclear program. The United States has also refused to supply the F-16 planes and other equipment for which Pakistan has already paid; it is not showing any interest in returning the paid funds for the equipment either.

The assurance given by the United States and the other four countries to non-nuclear states in a bid to persuade them to sign the NPT is incomplete and unreliable. The Government of Pakistan, especially Prime Minister Bhutto who is currently visiting the United States, should adopt a very cautious approach and should not allow the United States to set any condition for Pakistan to sign the NPT or to exert pressure on it in this regard. In view of the bitter experience of the past, relying on such assurances and relinquishing the access to and expertise in the sophisticated nuclear technology and winding up of our nuclear program will be tantamount to committing national suicide.

Editorial Questions New Agreements With U.S.

BK1204011895 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 11 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Question of the Supply of F-16 Aircraft, New Agreements, and Benazir Bhutto's Visit to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan wants to avoid a nuclear arms race in the region. That is why it has supported efforts to make South Asia a missile-free zone. Addressing a gathering of scholars and intellectuals at Princeton University during her current visit to the United States, she said at a time when India's nuclear missile development and its nuclear program have created the danger of weapons spreading from Yemen to Malaysia, it is the responsibility of the United States to play a role in the establishment of peace in South Asia as it did in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Christine Shelly, the acting spokesperson of the U.S. State Department, has said that the Clinton administration intends to work with Congress to find ways to establish stronger relations with Pakistan in the context of the Pressler Amendment. Any understanding with Congress should be totally in keeping with our consistent and foremost preference for the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the entire South Asian region. We are trying to find a way to do this within the purview of the law, but we definitely intend to adhere scrupulously to the objective of nuclear nonproliferation, she added.

The objectives of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States include ensuring the repeal of the Pressler Amendment, the supply of the F-16 aircraft or the refund of the money paid for them, and the signing agreements for investment in Pakistan by some U.S. commercial organizations. The prime minister is still in the United States. So far during her tour, she has met with several U.S. leaders. After these meetings, an attempt has been made to create the impression that the prime minister's visit has been successful thus far, but the nation has a right to ask what benefit is being reaped from this visit if the Pressler Amendment is not repealed and the aircraft—for which money has been paid—are not supplied to Pakistan. What difference will it make if a few agreements are signed with some U.S. commercial organizations for investment in Pakistan?

The United States had extracted money from Pakistan on the promise of supplying F-16 aircraft, but has not yet done so. They are now prevaricating on this issue. Sometimes they say that the Pressler Amendment prevents the transfer of the planes, and sometimes they hint that at the time of their delivery these planes will be made incapable of carrying nuclear weapons from one place to another, even though this condition was neither in force earlier nor mentioned in the sale deal. As for the Pressler Amendment, it was enacted according to the wishes of the U.S. Government, perhaps because the United States does not want to see any other nation prosper. It is pursuing a policy of keeping different nations at war with each other so they will turn toward Washington for arms and other materials and the United States may continue to blackmail them.

What kind of a principle or law is at work when a country enters into a deal to sell goods to another country, receives the required amount, but then refuses to supply the goods? When the hapless buyer makes repeated appeals; raises a hue and cry; and even pays visits to that country, meets senior U.S. officials, and asks them to deliver the planes, they express their inability to do so, saying that the law they themselves enacted is in the way. Binding legislation can only come into force with the mutual agreement of the two countries, but in our case restrictions are being imposed unilaterally.

Against this backdrop, might the Pakistani nation be compelled to think that the commercial contracts and the memorandums of understanding signed today by some U.S. commercial organizations and industrialists—in the presence of our prime minister—for investment in Pakistan will meet the same fate as the deal for the supply of the F-16 aircraft? In view of the fact that the U.S. Government can renege on its commitments, create obstacles to the implementation of the agreements, or amend them, what guarantee is there that these minor agreements signed under the patronage of the U.S. Government will be implemented?

Some people have gone to the extent of saying that the agreements signed for so-called investment in Pakistan are a kind of mirage. They are another form of privatization. In fact, under these agreements, the Benazir Bhutto government will sell certain power generation units and some major state sector industrial undertakings to U.S. investors, collect the cost of those units from the investors, and then claim the money received to be the amount of investment in Pakistan. If that is so, it will be a terrible joke on Pakistan and this great nation. When a country is not implementing old agreements, how can it implement new ones signed in the presence of its leaders? Christine Shelly, the acting spokesperson of the U.S. State Department, categorically stated that the Pressler Amendment undoubtedly affects our relations, and it is under this law that restrictions have been imposed, specifically on the supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Was this law in existence at the time the deal was signed and the cost paid? No.... Then what guarantee is there that U.S. industrialists or investors will not apply new laws—which may be enacted later—to their agreements with Pakistan? What is the guarantee that the U.S. Government will not try to sabotage these agreements?

As stated by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, India's development of missiles has created the danger of the proliferation of such weapons in the region. Considering its friendship with Pakistan, did the U.S. Administration criticize the Indian Government for these preparations, impose any kind of restrictions on them, or try to make Pakistan stronger in comparison to India? No.... The glaring example is the deal for the supply of the F-16's.

The fact is that India has signed certain contracts with President Clinton's partner firm [preceding two words in English], and in the presence of these agreements no aid can be expected from the United States, especially from the Clinton administration, nor is the implementation of investment agreements possible.

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